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Easter 2020



EASTER SUNDAY is April 12 and we anticipate with great joy our opportunity to celebrate the rising of our Lord Jesus Christ! We will sing, we will share joy, we will declare, "He has risen! He has risen indeed!" We celebrate with disciples across all generations who have been held in awe, wonder and love for how God's love overcomes fear. Only, this year we will be doing it in separate spaces so that we can help our neighbors be safe from illness. Easter will happen, just differently.

We are offering a multitude of ways you can worship with us in Holy Week. In this newsletter there is a worship guide for your days in Holy Week. You can follow this guide in your own daily devotionals or as we worship on the internet with Facebook and YouTube. We know not everyone has easy access to those websites, so we hope the worship guide in this newsletter helps you to stay connected.

At the time I am writing this we know that we will not be able to gather for public worship through the month of April. We wait with the confidence that God's grace is greater than any illness or virus we face. We have not been here before in our lifetimes. I am thankful for the many ways we are able to adapt our means of ministry so that we may continue to be witnesses of God's love.



We cannot know all the emotions of the disciples as they walked with Jesus. Surely there were moments of complete awe and wonder. Each of them may have had a different moment when just walking with Jesus changed their point of view. They may have also walked with some fear and uncertainty as the journey took them to places they had not been and situations they never imagined finding themselves in. They might have feared the soldiers from Rome and their demands as an occupying army. They may have feared the sick. They may have feared people who wore different clothes and spoke different languages. In those moments as they walked with Jesus, I believe they experienced love that led them through the uncertainty. Jesus led them with love and grace through their uncertain time.

I am grateful for the ministry of the church that we may continue to live as people who have the assurance of God's love. We are taking precautions with our worship gathering, we are learning new ways we can connect and keep each other safe from the harm of a virus. While we do these things to be stewards of one another's health, our hearts are lifted with the awe and wonder, and we join with the first disciples as we shout and sing "He has risen!"

Thanks be to God!, Pastor Bruce



Sunday April 5 • 10 a.m.

You are encouraged to have a palm, a branch, a leaf, a handkerchief, something to wave and remember how you might welcome Jesus in your room today. Read the Gospel and wave your hands in joy for the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

Prayer:

Almighty God,

On this day, you, Son Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way.

Let those branches be for us signs of His victory and grant that we who bear them in His name may ever hail Him as our Lord, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life.

In His name we pray. Amen (United Methodist Book of Worship p.340)

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11



April 9th • 5:30 p.m.

One tradition of this day is to have a ceremonial foot washing. Today in your home wash your hands remembering Jesus taught us to serve one another. May we humble ourselves to serve our Lord Jesus as he humbled himself for us.

Scripture: John 13:1-7, 31b-35

Prayer:

O God, by the example of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, you taught us the greatness of true humility, and call us to watch with him in his passion. Give us grace to serve one another in all lowliness and to enter into the fellowship of his suffering; in His name and for His sake. Amen. (United Methodist Book of Worship p. 349)

On this day it is traditional to share in Holy Communion. In your own space, you are invited to share a cup of juice and a piece of bread and remember that you are a loved child of God.



April 10th • 5:30 p.m.

In our service this Friday we will extinguish a candle after portions of the reading, until darkness comes. If you are able you are invited to light a candle before you read the gospel text. When you are finished, blow out the candle, sit for a moment in silence with humility and thanksgiving for what God has done for us.

Scripture: John 18:1 – 19:42

Prayer:

Almighty God,

Your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that He might draw the whole world to Himself.

Grant that we, who glory in this death for our salvation, may also glory in His call to take up our cross and follow Him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (United Methodist Book of Worship p.362)

Easter Sunday

April 12th

6:27 a.m. Sunrise Service

10 a.m. Easter Service

It is a day of bright colors and celebration! Dress up for this day, decorate with bright colors, let as much light into your room as you can, for He has Risen!

Scripture: John 20:1-18

*I have
SEEN
the Lord!*

A Prayer

God of power and majesty;

With the rising of the sun you have raised Jesus Christ and delivered him and us from death's destruction. We praise you on this bright day for all your gifts of new life. Especially we thank you for all victories over sin and evil in our lives . . .
For loyalty and love of friends and family . . .
for the renewal of nature . . .
for the newborn, the newly baptized, and those now in your eternal home . . .
for the continuing witness of the church of Christ . . .

God of eternity:

You are present with us because of Christ's rising from the dead, and you persist in lifting us to new life in Him. We bring to you our prayers for this world in need of resurrection. Especially we pray for nations and peoples in strife . . .
for the poor and impoverished, at home and abroad . . .
for those we know in particular circumstances of distress . . .
for the diseased and dying . . .
for all who follow the risen Christ . . .
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(United Methodist Book of Worship p. 395)

Results

of the United Methodist Women's 2020 Soup Derby and Dessert Auction

Thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket, donated a dessert, or made a cash donation to VanFUMC's United Methodist Women's 2020 Soup Derby & Dessert Auction.

Your support makes it possible to support local and international mission projects. All projects advocate for and promote the welfare of women, youth, and children.

The Soup Derby thanks everyone who made and shared a soup. Here's special recognition to our Soup Derby Winners:

**1st Place - Terry Warlick (2nd year in a row!)-
Green Chile Chicken Corn Chowder**

2nd Place - Nancy Rasmussen - Cauliflower Soup

3rd Place - Lyn Rush - Baked Squash with Cauliflower Soup

The Dessert Auction was a huge success, thanks to each and every dessert maker! Successful bidders shared their desserts with tablemates and others, continuing the evening of fun and fellowship.

A special "thank you" to Ginny Sorensen, our Office Administrator; and Gary Carter, our Facilities/Program Administrator, for their boundless enthusiasm and assistance with the unlimited number of organizational details that make the Soup Derby and Dessert Auction a fun and successful event.

And to everyone: thank you, again, for your continued contributions to the projects supported by VanFUMC's United Methodist Women.



Local projects supported by financial contributions:

- Vancouver First UMC Youth
- Evan Hull Ministries
- Pinoy Van-Port Multicultural Ministries
- Boxes of Love
- Open House Ministries
- Children's Home Society of Washington
- Safe Choices Women's Shelter - YMCA
- Tacoma Community House

Support is provided to these international projects:

- Days for Girls, International
- The Seguras, Missionaries in Honduras
- Jamaa Letu Orphanage, Africa



Youth MISSION

There's a lot to take in regarding COVID-19 and how the country has gone into virtual lockdown. I have been in a lot of prayer for the health and future of our country. I also have prayed and lost sleep over our mission trips and our youth auction this year. Our youth are home for school learning online, social distancing. Most businesses that would donate to our auction will have closed their doors and may never be able to recover from all the closures. Our youth auction for this year has been cancelled.

With the mission trips ... Louisiana is weeks behind the "curve", and as of now they have thousands of cases, and hundreds of deaths. Portland, our other mission area, will be dealing with cases into the summer months, as the spread is growing.

With that being said and with a heavy heart, we believe it is wise to cancel the mission trips along with the youth auction this year. I will be looking for something that our youth can do that will positively affect our community in and around the church this summer, as we know that our community will need help emerging from this crisis. I also want to acknowledge that this year's group of senior youth would be invited to next year's mission trip if their schedules allow them.

These have not been easy decisions, and we have poured over federal, state, and Methodist conference information as well as lost many hours of sleep, coming to these conclusions. I care for the safety and health of our youth. Please, if there are questions or concerns, contact me whenever you can.

Justin Nutting

Director of Youth Ministries
Vancouver First United Methodist Church

Weave Us Together in Unity and Love

This great song professes that though unique; our lives are interwoven because of our faith.

A moment ago we did not know unity, only diversity. Now the Christ in me greets the Christ in you, in one great family.

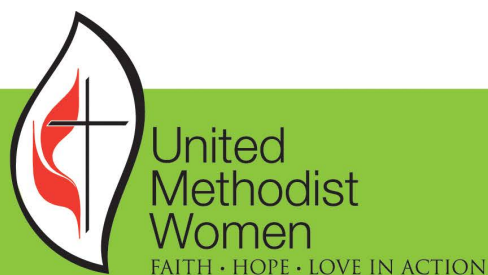
The Care Team, along with our wonderful phone tree captains, is working to keep the fabric of First Church strong. Though we will not have the chance to worship, study or fellowship together this season, we do have the chance to stay connected. Let us be an encouragement to one another



and develop creative relationships. The church is relying heavily on social media's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/vanfumc> for live options and updates. We also will use the webpage www.vanfumc.org, email and phone calls. (Please call the church office at 360-693-5881 to update your contact information).

The lyrics remind us that we are "entwined in one great tapestry." Let us be an inspiration to one another as we do church from within our own hearts and homes.

Rev. Mary Lookingbill, Care Team



From your **MiSSiON** Team:

Help Us Bring Hope and Safety to Those Sleeping in Their Vehicles

There are many reasons a person finds themselves sleeping in their vehicle. Through SafePark, local churches provide a place for those sleeping in their vehicle to be safe while they work to stabilize their lives. State and federal governments permit faith communities to use their property (including parking lots) and their resources to carry out their mission. In many cities, church parking lots are the only places for people to park and sleep legally.

SafePark supports congregations who are offering hospitality to those sleeping in their cars in Clark County.

Vancouver FUMC explored SafePark and determined that our location has too many barriers to be successful. Instead, we pledged our financial support to Mill Plain UMC's SafePark site. The cost is \$225 per month. If you would like to donate, make out your check to FUMC and note SafePark on the memo line. Any amount you can provide is greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Anita Jinks.

SAFE PARK

Referral Stats

We receive twice as many referrals from May 1 to Oct 31st. I believe this is in correlation to the Winter Hospitality Overflow opening and colder weather.

We receive 12 referrals per week on average.

Go Connect's mission is to Connect people together to share in the love of God by meeting practical needs, fostering lasting relationships, and building authentic community. We do this through programs such as SafePark. SafePark works with local churches who desire to meet a very real and practical need for people who are sleeping in their vehicles by opening up their parking lots for a specific timeframe each day and give people a sense of security and respite.

Churches open a portion of their parking lot from 5pm to 9am, times vary based on the church. A porta-potty is provided for the guests to use.

We started this program after a very specific conversation we had with a young lady whom we met during one of our outreach service days. She told us she was living in her car and we spent some time talking about safety and security. We told her about this program we were thinking of and she started to cry a bit. She went on to encourage us to continue building what we now know as SafePark. This young gal told us a story that precipitated the fuel behind this effort. It was a story of her first night in the car when someone broke her window and attacked her. As we looked at the broken glass and the broken girl, we knew we had to do something. The result is SafePark.



Rental of a porta-potty is the only financial commitment required for churches to

STATISTICS

Active Guest Category:

- 07** - Couples
- 01** - Family w/children
- 03** - Over 50
- 08** - Single Female
- 11** - Single Male
- 30** - Total
- 786** - units since inception have been referred
- 119** - units received housing

Income Statistics:

- 10%** seeking employment
- 15%** on either Social Security or Disability
- 75%** have part- or full-time employment

April Birthdays

Leland Cook	Lisa Satterfield	Michelle Mehl
Zion Ortega	Gwynette Vollmer	Kevin Gentry
Jireh Rivera	Mekena Eha	Kristine Griffin
Grant Lewis	Kenneth Moore	Karen Payne
Arlene Mackey	Heather Stuart	Jaycee Williams
Scot Potter	Maya Obot	Emma Santiago
Michael Harris	Sue Bottemiller	Ian Merli
Aaron Brown	Patricia Ellis	Kristina Santiago
Sandra Buschert	John White	Katherine Shaw
Austin Singh	Melody Marichalar	Steve Stuart
Andrew Singh	Kate Palermini	Dale Flory
Carter Brown	Peter Rasmussen	Shawn Martin
Bonnie L'Amoreaux	Stan Firestone	

April Anniversaries

Richard & Beverly Thomas	Roger & Val Bieber	Tim & Sue Jeffries
Dan & Sarah Estep	Ike & Kay Ekeya	Erik & Lyn Rush
Stanly & Teena Singh	Dennis & Gerry Short	Mike & Bobbi Selig
Patrick & Heather Synon	Erik Robinson & Erin Middlewood	
Matt & Sarah Shoemaker	John & Donna Kirkpatrick	



We discover, explore, embrace
& share God's belovedness

Vancouver First United Methodist Church

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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

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.

Earth Day

"I think a lot on our faith, where we believe our salvation will impart. You are loved. We are cared for. Yet we depend on each other for our survival, that is the greatest gift of all. That shared love we are trusted with. No matter your race, religion, gender, creed, faith ... human kind, more specifically human kindness, will deliver us from this peril. When faced with a challenge in these trying times, offer human kindness. Accept human kindness. Choose to be kind, reverent, helpful and wise. We shall overcome."

By Gary Carter