

Starting is More Difficult Than Stopping

Stopping worship services and having gatherings in our building was a difficult choice but relatively easy to do, we just stopped. Then we started doing numerous new things. One week, I was on my own for a Facebook live worship, the next week Thomas joined in, then we started recording and adding more people into the worship videos. We have slowly started something that I believe First Church can be proud of.

Soon we will be starting toward live worship services again. State and County government agencies have implemented a four-stage plan for reopening of businesses and public gatherings. Each step will be carefully entered into as we try to keep this pandemic limited in its scope. For the church we are also looking at how the four stages might be implemented in our life and ministry. In our Methodist Heritage we have what John Wesley called “the general rules.” They are “do no harm, do good and love god.” Our aim is to follow this first rule and “do no harm.” This may mean United Methodist Churches are slower to open for public gatherings than other churches.

A small group of leaders will be meeting with video meetings to work out our church plan for living into the four stages. These steps may be frustrating, and it will not be easy to be starting slowly when others seem to be starting more quickly. Each of us have had a variety of experiences and sources of information about this pandemic and how individuals, churches and governments should or should not take particular actions. Our churches steps will be guided by local and state government,

denominational leaders, and our own local church leaders. Together we will find our way forward.

At the time of writing this, our church buildings are closed until at least June 15th. In the next stage some staff and leaders will be able to use the building using facemasks and keeping appropriate social distancing. It will be many weeks after that when some small groups will be able to meet in the building and still longer after that before we will offer public worship.

We entered this process with grace, and I anticipate that we will continue with grace as we move forward. There are many difficult decisions and no easy answers. As we learn best practices, we may learn something we thought was true in the past is not true now. In all our decisions we will seek to follow the general rules that have served Methodists well.

We are all learning together how we can best be in ministry in this time. I am ever so thankful for the ways you are connecting with friends, neighbors, family and church members. May you be surrounded with the love and assurance of our Lord Jesus Christ as we move forward together.

If you want to learn more about the guidelines the Annual Conference has offered you can find them here: <https://greaternw.org/reimagining-life-together/>

Grace and Peace,
Bruce

¹ Wesley's third is actually “attend upon all the ordinances of God” in which he means for the Methodist to attend regular worship with the sacrament of Holy Communion. Bishop Ruben Job wrote a little book shortening Wesley's original to this statement to “stay in love with God.” <https://www.umc.org/en/content/the-general-rules-of-the-methodist-church>

June 2020 Worship Devotional



We offer you these devotional questions as a way to prepare for and respond to our worship services this month. Worship is offered on video with links for Facebook and YouTube on our website. If you would like to receive a recorded copy of worship on a DVD please let us know, and we will work to get you a copy of our services that way.



JUNE 7 • GRADUATION SUNDAY

Genesis 1:1-2:4a “In the Beginning”

Using the beginning of Genesis, Pastor Bruce will explore stories of beginnings, births, graduations, new ways of being church. As you hear these words today, what stands out among the days of creation? What new beginning are you looking forward to? Who might you share this beginning with?



JUNE 14 • “PEACE WITH JUSTICE”

Genesis 18:1-15

Romans 5:1-8 “Grace and Laughter”

In Genesis Sarah laughs at the ridiculous idea of a child in old age. What gifts of Grace do we receive with joy? When has a child been a sign of God’s grace in your life? How have you experienced grace this past week?



JUNE 21 • FATHER’S DAY

Romans 6:1b-11 “Transforming Grace”

Grace changes us to full life. Paul asks a question that people still ask when we teach grace, “*If God is going to forgive me, can I just keep sinning?*” Paul will show that grace transforms us to new life with Christ. How has grace transformed your life? In what part of your life are you still seeking grace?



JUNE 28

Romans 6:12-23 “A Free Gift”

The text speaks about the transformation and the free gift of grace. This gift is our choice to receive so that we might be free in a right relationship with God. What free gift of love might you be able to offer for another?

June Birthdays

Michael Allen	Becca Kays	Marion Noe
Marjorie Brown	Naomi Kihn	Thomas Prescott
Syndi Colven	Donna Kirkpatrick	Sophia Santiago
Danny Daller	Marty Kuhn	Diane Satterfield
Linda Dawson	Lindsey Lewis	Andy Schoonover
Marilyn Dickinson	Sally Manney	Eliot Shaw
Daniel Estep	Daniel Martinez	Ariana Singh
Sophie Friauf	Denise McGuiness	Timothy Spofford
Ruth Green		Patricia Joy Stepp
James Griffin		David Stoller
Marian Hermanson		Connie Storey
Mayda Kallis		Suzanne Waldrop
Monika Kaumatule		James Warren

June Anniversaries

Estep, Rick & Valerie	Santiago, Al & Laura
Johnson, Ray & Harriet	Luke, Tim & Barb
Hutchins, Jerry & Mary	Tinney, David & Carol
Hanley, Bob & Jan	Tarvin, Darrell & Karen
Hall, Adron & Vicki	Budnik, Ken & Lisa
Buschert, Tim & Sandy	Gentry, John & Joyce
Patterson, Larry & Erma	Rasmussen, Steve & Nancy
Wilmington, Mike & Debbie	Flory, Dean & Sue



Vancouver First United Methodist Church
Trustees Scholarships

Grimes Scholarship \$5,000

Grace Walton (University of Idaho)

Trustees Scholarship \$1,250

Cole Delich (Boise State University)

Logan Femling (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo)

Trustees Continuing Student Scholarship \$750

Robert Carter (The Evergreen State College)

Andrew Owen (University of Montana)

Kayl Peck (Colorado School of Mines)

Locke Landis (Cornish College of the Arts)

Vancouver Methodist Foundation Scholarships

The Vancouver Methodist Foundation is honored to continue its long tradition of providing higher education scholarships.

The Foundation is able to provide these scholarships as a result of generous charitable gifts. The Foundation marks its 51st year with a record number and amount of scholarship awards. A total of \$52,750 will be awarded in 24 post high school scholarship and 27 Clark College nursing scholarships.

The post high school scholarships are possible due to financial gifts from the following: Garnet Allen, Betty and John Walker, John Gary, Perry Johnigan, Michael and Michelle Mehl, Family of Peter DeLong, Mindy Ludolph, and Charles Anderson.

The Clark College nursing scholarships are possible due to generous gifts from the following: Clifford Stickney, John and Clara Kapfer, and Mindy Ludolph.

Post High School Scholarship Recipients

Samantha Nieda	Skyview	Whitworth University
Yasha Holmes	Mountain View	Eastern Washington University
Benjamin Rice	Cedar Tree Classical Christian	New Saint Andrews College
Zenaye Brown	Camas High	Gonzaga University
David Kovalenko	Camas High	Portland State University
Samuel Borgmeyer	Ridgefield High	Western Washington University
Hailey Grotte	La Center High	Washington State University
Joshua Zimmer	Ridgefield High	George Fox University
Grace Jacobsen	Washougal High	Washington State University
Natasha Lewis	La Center High	John Hopkins University
Katie Nelson	La Center High	Boise State University
Grace Melbuer	Ridgefield High	UCLA
Kaitlyn Boyle	La Center High	Washington State University –Vancouver
Alison Brown	La Center High	Oregon State University – Cascades
Victoria Boehmildt	Heritage High	Clark College
Breanna Koenninger	Ridgefield High	Gonzaga University
Calley Mihaivc	River Homelink	Washington State University- Vancouver
Abigail Banholzer	La Center High	Washington State University
Brynnley Hunzeker	Ridgefield High	University of Nebraska
Sophia Clinton	La Center High	Washington State University
Liam McKenna	Ridgefield High	Oregon State University
Allie Thompson	Skyview High	Eastern Washington
Jeb Bennett	Columbia River	Washington State University
Allison Owen		University of Denver

Clark College Nursing Scholarships

Jenny Beddo

Taylor Vossen

Zhanna Beregova

Jessica Webb

Libing Berghofer

Boxiao Zheng

Kristina Childers

Annie Asimionese

Noah Cima

Vitali Catrecico

Sandy Espinoza

Brianna Cowl

Patricia Hart

Nancy Garcia

Dennis Karnaukh

Evnica Korotkikh

Andreana Kozhemyakin

LeAnne Mueller

Anna Matiusenic

Veronica Protsenko

Jennifer Nguyen

Emily Ritscher

Ana Nichita

Michelle Sahling

Carmina Romero

Christy Warneke

Isabella Taylor



Fresh from First

A response to the COVID outbreak

In response to the many needs of the COVID virus, Vancouver First United Methodist will embark on a food ministry in our neighborhood- The Knights of Pythias Retirement Center, formerly known as the Pythian Home. This independent senior facility has over 150 residents who are currently limited in their access to family, friends and their community. In addition to this isolation, they no longer are able shop frequently at their local grocery store. The Center's resident manager stated that fresh fruit, break, milk and egg's are needed to ensure healthy and complete meal planning. Therefore through July, First Church will be providing a boxes of fresh essentials to these residents. The first delivery will be this Friday, May 29th.

Financial donations are welcomed to continue this ministry:

Mail personal checks to the office- First UMC-
401 E. 33rd Street, Vancouver, WA 98663

Payable to the First United Methodist Church Attn: Food Box/Pythian

If you use the online giving option, you can designate an additional amount for Food Box/Pythian

If you are NOT using the online giving option now but would like to, please contact our treasurer Michelle for help. treasurer@vanfumc.org

First Church is blessed to be a blessing!
Mary Lookingbill, Care Team

Staying Connected- Watch your Mailbox!

To make sure that all our members stay connected to the life of First Church, a copy of the online Messenger will be mailed to some home addresses over the next few months. We recognize much of the congregation can get the Church news and Sunday Service online, but it is not be the preferred option for everyone.

If you do not receive a mailing but would like a paper copy of the Messenger, please let the church office know so your name can be added.

If you receive a mailing and do not need it, please let the church office know so further mailings can be cancelled.

360-693-5881 office@vanfumc.org

Vancouver Methodist Foundation

We are experiencing the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic on our lives. For some, the impact has created severe hardships. The Vancouver Methodist Foundation has taken bold action to help these families in need. It is the right thing to do; we needed to step up to help. The Foundation has reached out to school districts across Clark County to enlist the help of the District Family Resource Coordinators. These individuals identify the highest priorities of their family's needs. We have established a working

partnership, and the Foundation has sent out \$20,000 in COVID-19 support. We expect these funds to be used up within the next couple of months. Then with the stories of how these funds have made real-life impacts, a second round of funding is planned for later this summer. The Foundation is hoping to partner with other donors for this second effort. More details on how these funds could be raised will follow in the weeks ahead. Questions contact Dean Lookingbill, President Vancouver Methodist Foundation.

Interview With the Marichalar Family

BY DEBBI MUSSER, VOLUNTEER STORYTELLER

I proceeded to interview the Marichalar family during our state's "Stay at Home" orders, and the interview was conducted via video phone.

After being cooped up in my house for that first month of lock-down, it was a pleasure to be able to visit and learn more about this wonderful family.

During the quarantine, both Nanci and Jesse are working from home. Their daughters Melody and Annie do their schoolwork online. The family agreed they were quite saddened by the fact the girls' softball season never started this year.

The Marichalars have one pet, a cat named ***Gracie***.

Jesse was born in Monterrey, Mexico in the state of Nuevo León. Jesse is the shortened version of his actual first name, Jesus. He was adopted at one day old and was raised in Connell, Washington, in the eastern part of the state. He has one brother, Joe, who was also adopted. Jesse graduated from Central Washington University with a bachelor's degree in history and social science. Following graduation from CWU, Jesse attended Eastern Washington University and received his bachelor's in education.

He met Nanci at Central Washington and they fell in love and married 22 years ago. Jesse works for Pamplin Media in Portland in advertising and sales. He said that during the stay at home order, he spends quite a bit of time working online.



He does get to escape every now and then to his Portland office, following the strictest of protocol.

Jesse said that one of his favorite activities is exercising and working out at the gym. He is quite involved in helping the girls' with their sports. Jesse enjoys reading and listening to music. At VanFUMC, Jesse has played a cast of characters in past theatrical productions at the church.

Nanci was born in Portland, Oregon and was raised in Vancouver in a home just a few blocks from where the family lives now. Her mother still resides in her childhood home. Nanci has a younger sister named Julie. Nanci graduated from Central Washington University with a political science/sociology/psychology degree.

Like Jesse, she followed that degree and headed to Eastern Washington University to pursue her education degree. She received her master's degree in education from the University of Portland.

Nanci said she and Jesse first met while doing laundry at CWU. She was so impressed that he was doing his own ironing, they introduced each other and shook hands. Nanci later went back to her dorm room and called her mom and told her, "I just met this guy and we are going to be married!" Their close friendship blossomed for about a year, and they officially started dating once Nanci came home from an education abroad program. They agreed it was definitely love at first sight!

Today, Nanci works at Wy'East Middle School in Vancouver teaching Washington state history and English language arts.

During the quarantine, Nanci said she's honing her teach-from-home skills on the computer. She stays active and keeps up with all the challenges and changes at her school. She is currently on the Restructuring of Curriculum Committee

In her spare time, Nanci said she enjoys spending time with her family. Last summer, she was one of the chaperones on the VanFUMC youth mission trip. The Marichalars joined the Vancouver First United Methodist Church in the fall of 2006.

Melody was born in Vancouver, Washington and lived here her whole life, she just turned 17 years of age. Since her birthday coincided with the "State at Home" orders, her family ordered take-out meals and enjoyed safe, family picnic at the Vancouver Waterfront. Currently, Melody is a junior at King's Way Christian School in Vancouver. In classes, she enjoys history. On the field, she plays first base for the softball team and has done so for six years. At VanFUMC, Melody is busy with the youth group and often serves the church as liturgist and nursery assistant.

Melody is quite the international traveler, having visited eight different countries. Yet, she said, "never visited the state of California." The family had a cruise planned for spring break that was to begin and end in Los Angeles, but it was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Younger sister **Annie** was born in Vancouver as well, and has celebrated 15 birthdays here. She is a freshman at Seton Catholic High School in Vancouver, and she said her favorite subject is math and she particularly "loves algebra!" She plays for Seton's basketball and softball team. She is quite accomplished in softball, also plays on a club team, which keeps her family hopping during softball season.

And as if not busy enough, Annie joined the school's fishing club this year. Prior to joining the team, she said she didn't know anything about fishing. But what a great way to learn.

Annie volunteers at her school, helping with special events. She shared an interesting fact that at her school, she attends chapel every day, where she said she "prays before the start of every class," which is eight times a day, and they attend mass once or twice a week.



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

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

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

V.B.S - August 2020

SWEET SUMMER CELEBRATION

A Virtual Vacation Bible School Experience



**SIGN-UPS
START
June 7th**