

# The Messenger

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

## Express Edition

July 11th, 2020 • Vol. 79 • Issue 8

Hello Church Family,

We are still doing our best to keep current information for our best steps forward for congregational meetings. Our reopening team continues to meet and develop our plan for when we might be able to enter into "phase 3." At that time we will be able to host some small group meetings, including a small group worship experience in the sanctuary.

We will continue our video worship and it will be an important part of our life together as we move forward. We are also able to use video conferencing for small groups. I am grateful for your continued support of the ministry of Vancouver First and I can't wait for the day when we are all able to gather together again on a Sunday morning.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Bruce



## Summer Worship Schedule

# Happiness & The Gospel

**This summer** we can continue to expect challenges as we continue life with a pandemic. We do not know all the ways we will be able to gather, what we know is that the Gospel offers us new life in Christ. How will we allow the Gospel to transform us, even maybe, to bring us happiness? Pastor Bruce will walk with us through the Gospel of Matthew and explore how our lives are changed as we follow Jesus.

### July 5th

Communion

Text: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Key verse: v.28 Come to me, all you that are weary . . .

Why does Jesus say that the intelligent cannot see what infants can see? What wisdom is this? This wisdom Jesus speaks of offers "easy" guidance and direction. The Kingdom way is not the way of the powers of the world such as the Temple authorities or the Roman Empire. How might we be led today by this Wisdom?

### July 12th

Text: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Key verse: v.3 . . . "A sower went out to sow . . ."

What kind of sower just throws seed around like this? Word of the kingdom comes to people in a variety of environments and situations. Who is responsible for the soil and the success of the seed, is it the sower? This sower somehow gets a surprising abundance from the good soil. What surprising results await us in the kingdom of God?

### July 19th

Text: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Key Verse: v.28 . . . for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat . . .

Darnel, the indistinguishable weed. We can't tell which is which, that is the point. You don't know, who is producing, who is not? It is not our task to separate. Our task is to produce as best we can, lest we become fruitless.

### July 26th

Text: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Key Verse: v.33 The Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast . . .

Leaven is regarded as unclean, how can the Kingdom be compared to this unclean substance? What does it say about the kingdom of God that these small events create abundance? The first hearers would have noticed this inclusion, what does it mean for us today?

# JULY

# V.B.S - August 2020

## SWEET SUMMER CELEBRATION

A Virtual Vacation Bible School Experience

*We are looking forward to our upcoming virtual vacation bible school, and would love to invite families to begin registering children today! We are planning on August 10, 11 and 12 as the three days of our "Sweet Summer Celebration!"*



On day one, a Monday afternoon, we will kick off virtual VBS with a drive-through tunnel of volunteers and revelry in our church parking lot featuring (socially distanced) high school and middle school youth and adult volunteers making a celebration tunnel. The children of our VBS (grades K-5) will join their families in the drive through, get a wacky pack of summer goodies to celebrate our three day VBS, many sweet treats made by our middle school youth, high school youth, and of course youth director Justin Nutting, a hot family dish such as a pizza or fried chicken, and have their picture taken ... again, all while social distancing.



Day two will feature our virtual VBS video released on YouTube and Facebook (similar to how we are doing church service now) with an 11 a.m. premiere and available to watch all summer. At 5:30 p.m. on that second day (Tuesday), there will be a Zoom fellowship for the kids with the pastor, leaders from our Kid's Zone, Justin, and the VBS registered kiddos and their families.



Day three (Wednesday) will be the same as day two with the final video premiere and evening zoom fellowship loaded with faith, prayers and discussion.

To register a child for our virtual VBS, please RSVP to office@vanfumc.org with the child's name and his or her family email address for contact information. And for those who would like to volunteer for the tunnel of cheer and handing out of goodies on day one, please email program@vanfumc.org to sign up and take part!



Vancouver First United Methodist Church  
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[www.vanfumc.org](http://www.vanfumc.org)

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

#### SUNDAYS

Online Worship Service - 10 a.m.

Youth Sunday School online - 11 a.m.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Registration Starts

#### TUESDAYS

Facebook Live Devotional - 10 a.m.

#### WEDNESDAYS

M.S. Youth Group online - 1 p.m.

H.S. Youth Group online - 3 p.m.

Church Fellowship online - 5:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAYS

Facebook Live Devotional - 10 a.m.

## 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

Trustees Chair | Thomas Musser

# Encore Jubilee

A video festival of music and heritage with a little  
something for everyone, set to premiere at noon on  
Saturday, July 11th.

You don't want to miss our special video productions July  
July 11th, try to watch on a big screen if you can! For more  
information, you can log on to [www.vanfumc.org](http://www.vanfumc.org) or [www.encoreumc.com](http://www.encoreumc.com).

## July 11th

## Premeires @noon

## Home Concert.

