

The Messenger

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

"Serving Christ in our Local Community"

Vol. 79 • Issue 11

October 2020

The Walk

Fall Worship

Sermon Series &
Book Study

**Starting
October 4th**

**An
Interview
With
Jan & Bob
HANLEY
Pg. 8**

Vancouver First United Methodist Church

Pastor Letter

The Walk

On a recent visit with my parents, my sister and I were able to take a walk around the little farm and woods we grew up on. We explored the fruit trees that were still producing, I admired the work and changes my sister has done around the backyard, we walked into the woods noticing the damage from a winter storm years ago and noticing the new growth as well. While there have been many changes around the property it is still precious land for us.

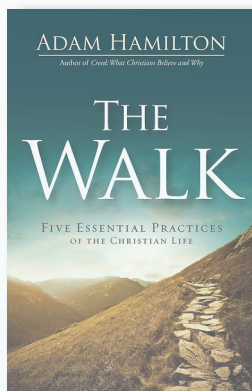
This month I am inviting you to take a walk with me in our life as disciples of Jesus Christ. One of our guides on this journey will be Rev. Adam Hamilton as we make use of his book "The Walk." In it we will consider the basics of our lives as disciples. During this walk we will explore prayer, study, service, giving and sharing. In each we will find opportunities for us to take a step further in our walk with Jesus Christ.

This walk is also the foundation for our stewardship campaign. As members of the United Methodist Church we have made a promise to support the church as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are called to grow in our experience of God's love and to share that experience so others will know of the transforming love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Even while we are not able to all gather in a building, we are able to take this walk together meeting in small groups using "Zoom" with our computers, tablets, and

phones. We can explore and remember what has been meaningful for us in the past. We can also look around and imagine the future possibilities. Small groups will be meeting on to discuss the book by Rev. Hamilton.

If you are in a Leaven group, your group will be meeting at its regular time. You are also invited to join me on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 for a discussion about "The Walk." You can find registration and information about joining in the Zoom



This month you will also receive a letter about our Stewardship campaign for this year. Our Celebration Sunday will be Sunday November 9th. This year has been remarkable, and you have shown amazing grace as you have fulfilled your membership promises during this pandemic. You have maintained your financial support as well as your time and skills to serve Jesus Christ in our local and global community.

Let us find those walking shoes, pick up a Bible and may we notice what continues to emerge in this precious ministry of Vancouver First United Methodist Church.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Bruce

Sunday Sermon @10 a.m.

Find us on

Facebook + YouTube

www.vanfumc.org

World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2020

Raising up new leaders to transform the world

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”

On World Communion Sunday, Oct. 4th, we will receive a special offering to support scholars in their education. Because of our giving on World Communion Sunday, the most powerful tool to change the world is in more hands.

In The United Methodist Church, World Communion Sunday is one of six Special Sunday offerings. On the first Sunday in October, our designated gifts benefit students around the world by providing scholarships, mentoring and training.

As we come together to receive Holy Communion along with Christians around the world, we recognize our unity and shared commitment to building God’s kingdom on earth. Together, we help raise up new leaders around the world, equipping them to be agents of change. Please give generously on Oct. 4th.

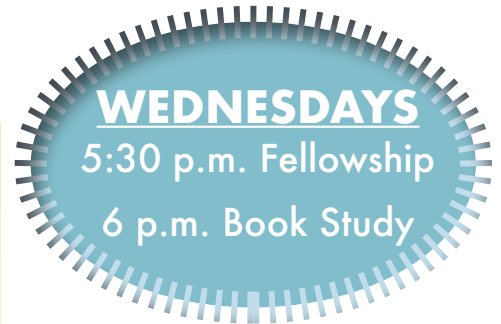
Come to the table.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Lives.
The People of The United Methodist Church

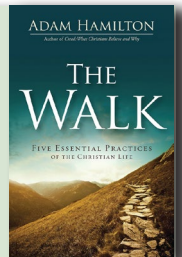
www.umcsgiving.org/WCS

Conversations &
Community
Christian
Education



October

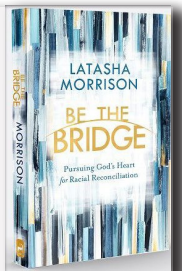
The Walk
Five Essential
Practices of the
Christian Life by
Adam Hamilton.



Pastor Bruce will base his sermon series on these spiritual practices which support our membership vows as United Methodists. In addition to his preaching, a small group ZOOM will be available.

November

Be the Bridge
Pursuing God's
Heart for Racial
Reconciliation
by Latasha
Morrison. Pastor Jim
McGinnis will explore this
Bible study which focuses on
our racial disunity and the
Christian response.





Fall Worship

Sermon Series:

The Walk

By Rev. Bruce Smith

October 4th

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

John 3:1-10 - Jesus and Nicodemus / Born from Above

Jesus invites Nicodemus to think about his relationship with God in a new way. Sometimes we encounter God in such a way that we know something new is happening, something of the Holy is near to us. As we pray and as we worship, we are invited to deepen our relationship God and neighbor.

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”[b] 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can

enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.[c] 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You[d] must be born from above.’[e] 8 The wind[f] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

October 11th

STUDY

Psalm 19:1-4

God revealed to us in; nature, art, relationships, experience, and reason.

Great artists have an uncanny ability to pay attention and to share an image with us that brings forward a detail that we often overlook. When we take time to listen to others and to have an opportunity to share some of the details of our walk of faith beautiful new things may emerge.

God’s Glory in Creation and the Law

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament[a] proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
- 4 yet their voice[b] goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens[c] he has set a tent for the sun,

October 18th

SERVE

Ephesians 2:1-10 - Created in Christ Jesus for good works

Our response to grace is to want to make a difference for others. Having received this glorious gift of God's love we know that we cannot repay that gift, but we can take some time and make some effort to make a difference for another in our midst to receive a free gift.

2 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3 All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ[a]—by grace

you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— 9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

October 25th

GIVE

Matthew 22:37-39 Loving Generosity

Each of us have an opportunity to be generous with ourselves and with others. In fact, giving something for others helps us to be happier. How might we grow in our generosity as we continue to serve Jesus Christ in our local and global community.

37 He said to him,

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.’

38 This is the greatest and first commandment.

39 And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

NOVEMBER 1ST

SHARE

Matthew 5:13-16 You are the Light of the world

You might remember the song “This little light of mine” and our response when we sing “hide it under a bushel?” NO! I’m going to let it shine! Our faith is a light that others need. When we share with others how God continues to make a difference for us we brighten the world with love and hope.

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Fall Updates

Programs & Church Facilities

by Gary Carter

A change for this program year, as the Encore concerts slated for Fall and Winter have been cancelled and funding is no longer there. So previous plans to have a Fall community event similar to the summer Jubilee concert are no more. And for now, same for the Winter Choir Festival.

In regards to the facilities for Vancouver First United Methodist Church, we are having the large trees on the church grounds examined by an arborist and pruned and trimmed accordingly. Our church parsonage, home to Pastor Bruce, has received a new coat of white paint to accompany the new windows around the home.

In addition, we will be putting the church bus up for sale in the coming weeks. If you know of any interested parties, it's a low mileage Chevrolet bus with an automatic handicap accessible ramp and it will be listed for \$5,250.

Inside the church building, many of the main doors around the church have full restoration and paint. You will see other upgrades and restorations around the building when we all return to worship in our lovely building later this year!

From the Membership Secretary

Book of Discipline: ¶ 246 The Charge Conference

With the help of many volunteers over the summer, the church membership database is being steadily updated. The Annual Charge Conference is upcoming later this Fall, and requires an updated Membership Secretary Report.

Here is some of the information I am updating:

Contact Information Updates:

Did you move, get a new email, or change phone numbers?

Privacy:

Your privacy is important to us, and is considered in the communications we send. Please feel free to indicate if your information is ok to appear in the church directory, or if you would prefer only limited information, or just your name listed in the church directory. Otherwise, we use your current information to send letters and important information from the Pastor, Treasurer, and Leadership and reporting purposes for the Pacific Northwest Conference..

College Students:

Did your child turn 19 or leave the area to go college? Let us know in the office so we can update their address and membership status. We understand that some students continue their faith journey at their new school location. We can transfer their membership, or keep it here at their request.

Thank you,
Ginny Sorenson
Membership Secretary
Office@vanfumc.org

*"I am with
you always."*

Re-opening Task Force

By Lisa Budnik

Since June, the Reopening Task Force has been working on a plan for the moment when we can open the church again for worship and activities. We have followed the guidance from the conference and the state and are waiting for the county to be approved to go to Phase 3. We need to be in Phase 3 before we are allowed to utilize the building again. Even being in Phase 3, the virus is still real, so we have signage, masks, and sanitizer in place to help you stay safe.

As much as we want to hug each other again, our primary concern is to "do no harm" as our Bishop has asked of us. We ask everyone to remain 6 feet apart and wear a mask. Consider adopting new ways of showing love to each other such as putting your hands across your heart to 'throw a hug' to a friend!

While the weather is good, we have approval from the District Superintendent for outdoor worship. *Yea!* We decided to hold worship on Sundays at 5 p.m. using the east parking lot. You can bring your lawn chair, or stay in your car,

whichever way is better for you. We did a test with a few people, and they were thrilled to be able to be together, even in a church parking lot. Unfortunately the recent smoke caused a cancellation of our second and third outdoor services, but we will continue as weather permits. Please call the office or sign up online to reserve a spot. We are using the same precautions of social distancing of 6 feet and requiring the wearing of masks if you are outside of your car on church grounds. We feel these simple things will allow us to keep worship going.

In closing, we know not everyone will feel comfortable coming back to worship in the parking lot or the building for a while. While we miss each other, we are never alone.

The Lord assures us in Matthew 28:20 that "I am with you always." As we continue to pray and find ways to stay in touch, be comforted knowing He is with us and together we are still the body of Christ.

Fresh from First Extended Through December!!

Each Friday FUMC provides essential groceries to the Pythian residents. Started in May as a response to COVID-19, this weekly delivery of milk, bread, eggs and fruit has provided support for the well-being of these independent residents. Given the ongoing pandemic, let us continue this gift of fresh groceries until the end of the year.

Additional shoppers as well as financial support is needed.

To contribute- consider making an online donation or sending a personal check marked Pythian/Fresh from First to the church.

To be a shopper-sign up using this Signup Genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a48abaf2aa31-fresh>

The link allows you to select your shopping date and will send a follow up email confirming your selection. Shoppers are given a standard list to shop for. The fresh essentials are delivered to the Pythian on Friday mornings. The staff and residents are grateful and help distribute the groceries.

Questions? Contact Bev Thomas 360-573-0399 or Bevthomas@century.net.



An Interview With

Jan and Bob HANLEY

By: Volunteer storyteller, Debbi Musser

Jan was born at home in Marysville, Kansas. She has three brothers. Jan is the last-born child. Her family moved to Colorado Springs in 1950. In high school she worked as a soda jerk in the local drug store.

Bob was born in Hammond, Indiana. He lived on a farm. He has two younger sisters. At age 12 he worked on his uncle's farm driving a tractor while applying a type of liquid nitrogen to the corn fields. He got paid \$1.00 an acre. He could complete 80-120 acres a day. On his 18th birthday he left to join the Airforce. He originally applied for the academy but he did not receive an appointment. So, he was accepted into their prep school for 9 months. After prep school his congressman appointed him to the Air Force Academy.

Bob and Jan met on a blind date in 1962. He was attending the local Air Force Academy. They dated for 3 years and were married the day after his graduation from the academy in 1965. Bob graduated but could not get commissioned with his class. He was diagnosed with a thyroid issue and they could not do the surgery before graduation, so he had to stay around as a cadet. He was told that he could not get married since cadets were not allowed to be married. Bob stressed that was going to be a problem since family members were traveling to attend the wedding. After much discussion they allowed him to get married on June 10, 1965. He was not allowed to wear his uniform or identify himself as an academy graduate.

The men in the wedding party all wore their uniforms but sadly Bob could not. He was officially commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant the following September and Jan was able to pin on his bars.

They have been married for 55 years. They have three children, two sons and a daughter. They have seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

While in the Airforce they lived in 7 different states which includes three separate tours in the WA DC area. He retired from the Airforce in 1985 as a Lieutenant Colonel. After the Airforce he started doing contract work as an engineer with the Airforce in Colorado Springs and NORAD. He basically was doing the same type of work that he was doing in the Airforce. In 1987 he started working as a contractor at Bonneville Power in Vancouver. He was their project manager regarding replacing the control dispatch system for the Northwest. He also did the same type of work with Puget Power in Seattle and the power systems on 14 dams. In 2005 Bob officially retired.

They moved to Vancouver in 1987. While the moving company was still unloading the truck a neighbor, Ruth Haines, came over to let them know she found out from their realtor that Bob and Jan were Methodists. Ruth invited them to church that Sunday and they joined the church that same year.

Jan was a stay at home mom until her daughter entered high school. She got a job at the church. She was the liaison between then Pastor White and members living in nursing homes. She would do visitations. She also scheduled visitation times for the other team members. Jan has volunteered in the community as well. She has worked in Hospice and as an Ombudsman. Jan decided to attend Clark College when her last child was going off to Western WA University. She received her AA Degree. Since 1987 Jan and Bob have been on numerous teams at church. Currently Bob is on the Finance Committee and Investment Committee. Jan is currently on the Little Acorn Preschool Board and serves as one of our liturgists on Sunday mornings.



Photo: Family Reunion at Zion National Park.

OCTOBER

VanFUMC Calendar

We are still in Phase 2 of Public Health Safe Start Ordres for Clark County. All of our church gatherings are on Zoom unless other wise indicated. Please check in with team or small group leaders as schedules may change from the posting of this newsletter. We are excited to share that our Youth Director, Justin Nutting submitted a safety plan for our Youth Group to meet outdoors, and it was approved by the District Superintendent. Our Focus this month is on "The Walk", a book by Adam Hamilton. You can join this on Wednesday nights with Pastor Bruce, or join one of our Leaven Groups on Monday nights or Tuesday mornings.

Weekly Church October Schedule

SUNDAYS

Online Service, 10 a.m. (on Facebook/YouTube)

Outdoor Worship Service, 5 p.m. (weather permitting)

Youth Group Sunday School (Outdoor time TBA)

MONDAYS

Monday Night Leaven Group, 6 p.m.

(This groups is reading "The Walk" for October)

TUESDAYS

Pastor Devotional on Facebook, 10 a.m.

Tuesday Morning Leaven Group, 10 a.m.

(This groups is reading "The Walk" for October)

WEDNESDAYS

Staff Meeting, 10 a.m.

Middle School Youth Group, 3:30 p.m.

Conversations & Community Fellowship, 5:30 p.m.

Conversations & Community Book Study, 6 p.m.

High School Youth Group, 6 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Pastor Devotional on Facebook, 10 a.m.

FRIDAYS

Fresh from First Delivery to Pythian Home

Calendar These Days for VanFUMC

10/04 - World Communion Day - Special Sunday

10/05 - Young Adult Studies (YAS), 6 p.m.

10/05 - 11/04 - "The Walk" Book Study (various groups)

10/15 - Staff Parish Reltations Committee, 6:30 p.m.

10/15 - Submissions due for Messenger Newsletter

10/19 - Young Adult Studies (YAS), 6 p.m.

10/21 - Trustees Meeting, 4 p.m.

10/22 - Leadership Team Meeting, 6 p.m.

10/23 - Names due to office for All Saints Day Service

10/25 - SiBs gathering, TBD, look for email

11/01 - All Saints Day, Special Online Service

11/11 - Veterans Day Observation - Office Closed

11/15 - Charge Conference for Elected Leaders, 4 p.m.

11/29 - First day of Advent

All Saints Day, November 1, 2020 Honoring a Memory

We are honoring the memories of those that have passed away since the last All Saints Day 2019. Please join us during the 10 a.m. online service for All Saints Day 2020.

Pastor Bruce will read the name of your loved one and light a candle. If you would like to honor someone still on your heart that has passed away, [email Ginny Sorenson](mailto:Ginny.Sorenson@vanfumc.org) at the church office. All names are needed by Sunday, October 25th to make it in time for the video.

October Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Pam Stoller
Mike Wilmington
Tammi Landis
Dawn Barber
Emily Brown
Francis Mitchel
Robert Robinson
Kathleen Warren
Ethan DeLisle
Ellie Wiesner
Rita Martin
Kay Lucas
Heidi Bjurstrom
Megan Jeffries
John Wisti
Emily Schroeder
Lisa Budnik
Larry Cooksey
Isabel Rush
Timothy Buschert
Joan Wisti
Wendy Wright
Jessica Ekeya

Larry Maaske
Stacy McCallum
Charlene Wasson
Michael Wooldridge
Richard Gellman
Adeline Bailey
Linda Lewis
Sean Gentry

Renae Ortega-Miller
Lawrence Irish
Don Burton
Steven Keirn
Eleanor Sefton
Angela Broeckel
Adron Hall
Christine Wilson
Stephen Palermini
Harley Kays
Rena Kern
Dorene Marsik
Rudilyn Rush
James Toepfer
Abbie Estep
Tessa Niemeyer
Larry Martin
Darcy Simmons
Paul Aldinger
Marilyn Andrews
Mary Lookingbill
Kay Ekeya
Pam Murphy

Happy Anniversary!

John & D'Alene White
Scott & Heidi Femling
Tim & Debbie Spofford
Wayne & Marilyn Andrews

The Messenger

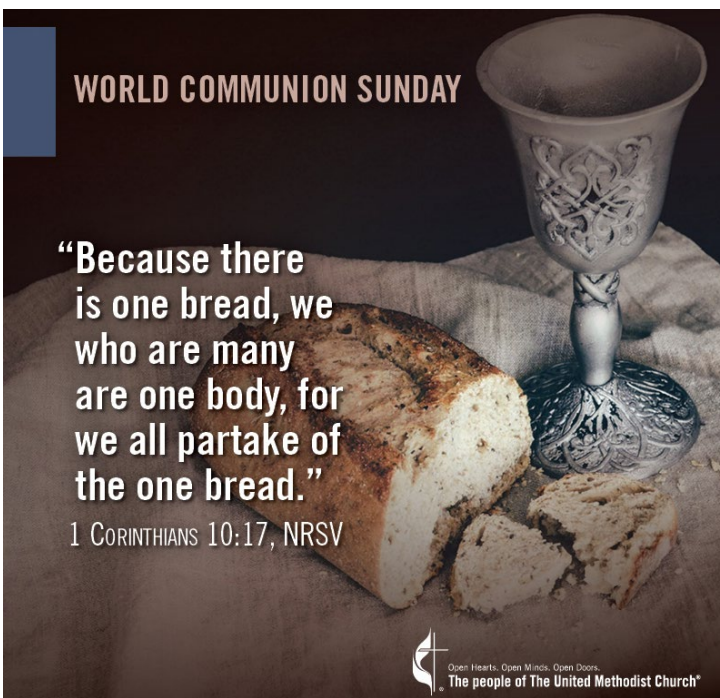
We discover, explore, embrace & share God's belovedness

VANCOUVER FIRST

United Methodist Church
401 E. 33rd St, Vancouver, WA 98663
(360) 693-5881
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.

World Communion Sunday October 4, 2020



Nov 1, 2020 - Daylight Saving Time Ends

When local daylight time is about to reach Sunday, November 1, 2020, 2:00:00 am clocks are turned backward 1 hour to Sunday, November 1, 2020, 1:00:00 am local standard time instead.

Messenger Submissions Due: October 15th

Staff & Church Leaders

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
Kids Zone Coordinator | Jenifer Walton
Treasurer | Michelle Mehl
Office Administrator | Ginny Sorenson
Maintenance Technician | Scott Hansen
Lay Leaders | Evan Hull & John Gentry
Trustees Chair | Thomas Musser
Staff Parish Relation Chair | Willa Curtis
Finance Chair | John Gentry