



The Bell Ringer

Vancouver Heights United
Methodist Church



Pastor's Corner

Happy New Year!

To each and every one of our members, readers, followers,
and friends.

I greet you in the matchless name of our liberator and Savior, Jesus the Christ. I pray that you and your family are experiencing the joy, possibility, hope, and love that this new year brings. Many people use this time of the year to make resolutions around dieting, exercising, and becoming more organized. No matter your individual resolutions for 2024, we as a congregation will be focusing our efforts on intentionally seeking wholeness, "becoming". How do we become a better church? How do we better connect with the community that we are called to serve? How do we intentionally create more meaningful and life-sustaining relationships with our members and families while extending that same grace to our guests and visitors?

This is not a daunting task, but it is a task that will take the investment of all of us. As we closed out last year, each pastor in our area, Crest to Coast, PNW Conf, western jurisdiction, was asked to implement "Going the M.I.L.E." as individuals and as a congregation. Bishop Bridgforth asks that we be initial about creating Ministry that Matters, Itineration and location, Lay Ministry Enhancement, and Eliminate Racism. We look forward to utilizing these four areas to focus on how we move forward as a church called to do liberative and justice work in our area.

January 2024 will mark some significant new beginnings as we will be implementing the single-board governance model. This year-long evaluation as a church will help us discern if this model will work for our congregation in 2025 and the future. We are also excited about the start of our second new member's class. If you did not have time to register it's not too late, the five-week class will begin on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 11:30 am. We will also be having an "all church meeting" to bring all members up to date with our Vision and Mission for 2024. Our all-church meeting will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 11:30 am.

My prayer for Vancouver Heights United Methodist Church in 2024 and beyond is that we will live into this season of "becoming" and embrace what that means for each of us individually and collectively. May the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit rest, cover, and abide in each of you, now and evermore.

Blessings
Pastor B



Volume 59 Issue 1

January 2024

Jan 2

Worship Mtg 5:30 pm (Zoom)

Jan 8

Social Justice 7:00 pm (Zoom)

Jan 9

Circle of Joy 12: 00 pm (FH)

Trustees Mtg 7:00 pm (Zoom)

Jan 16

Worship Mtg 5:30 pm (Zoom)

SPR 7:00 pm (Zoom)

Jan 20

Circle of Hope 11:00 am (10)

UWF Exec Mtg 1:00 pm (10)

Jan 22

Reading Radicals 7:00 pm (19)

Jan 23

DEI Task Force 4:00 pm (Zoom)

Jan 27

Church Council Mtg 9:00 am (19)

Jan 28

All Church Mtg 11:30 am (FH)

Weekly Meetings

Wednesday

Beyond 8-5 Men's Group

10:00 am (off site)

Bible Study

(beginning 1/10)

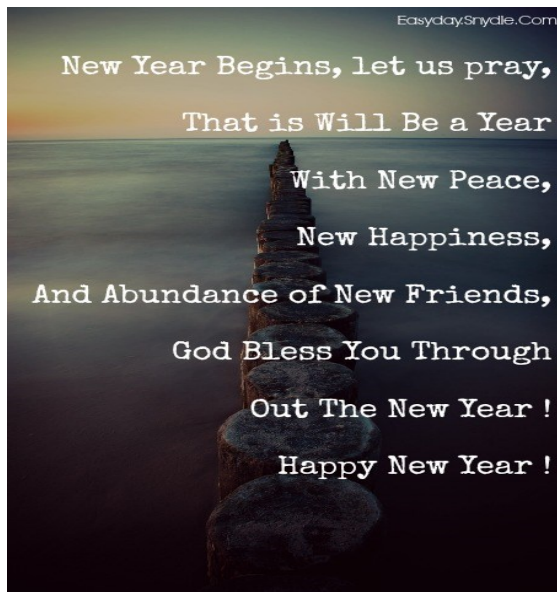
Bible Study 12:00 pm (10 & Zoom)

Bible Study 6:30 pm (10 & Zoom)

Thursdays

Choir Practice 6:30 pm





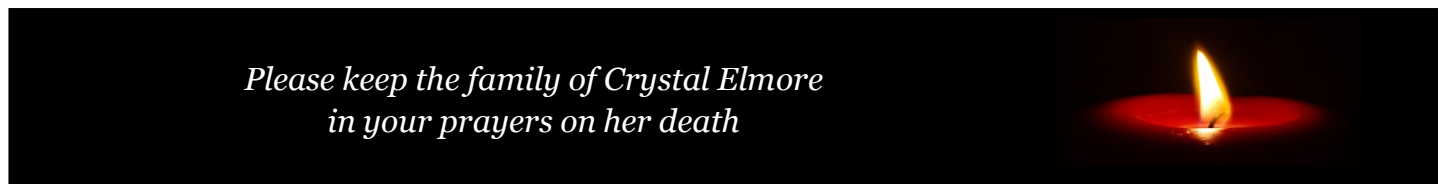
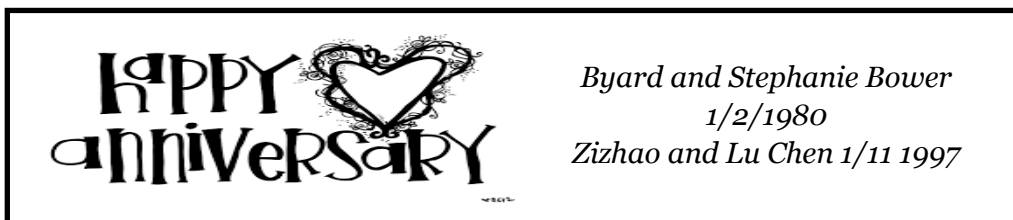
Remember in Prayer, Word and Deed

- Corkie Stewart
- Courtney Boyer
- Jeanie Harmon
- Jeani Johnson

*~ For the many unspoken prayer requests
in our church community*



- 1 Emberlyn Goodwin
- 2 Veronica Avery
- 4 Patrick Chen
- 4 Sabrina Beers
- 5 Susan Chamberlain
- 6 Wyatt Harold
- 10 Conner Ball
- 12 Meli Nicholson
- 13 Dakota Goodwin
- 13 Kendra Zimmerman
- 25 Gail Antijunti
- 28 Lu Chen



If you would like to have announcements or articles in the February 2024 Bell Ringer they will need to be submitted to the church office or Cheryl via email (vancouverheightsumc@gmail.com or niehausmcc@gmail.com) NO LATER than 1/18 by 1:00 pm



ADVENT 2023





United
Women
in Faith

News & Updates

Upcoming meetings

1/9 Circle of Joy 12:00 pm (FH)
1/20 Circle of Hope 11:00 am (10)
1/20 UWFaith Executive Mtg 1:00 pm (10)



Circle of Hope holiday gathering

What to do when kiddos insist on dressing up in Nativity attire??? We hear stories about Love, Joy, Peace and Hope then choose our favorite character and pose of course.

Welcome to Nativity 2023





The committee for the Kristkindlmarkt would like to thank all the members of the church who helped us have a successful shopping spree for the children of LACCC for gifts for their parents. It was so much fun for all the helpers and all of the children.

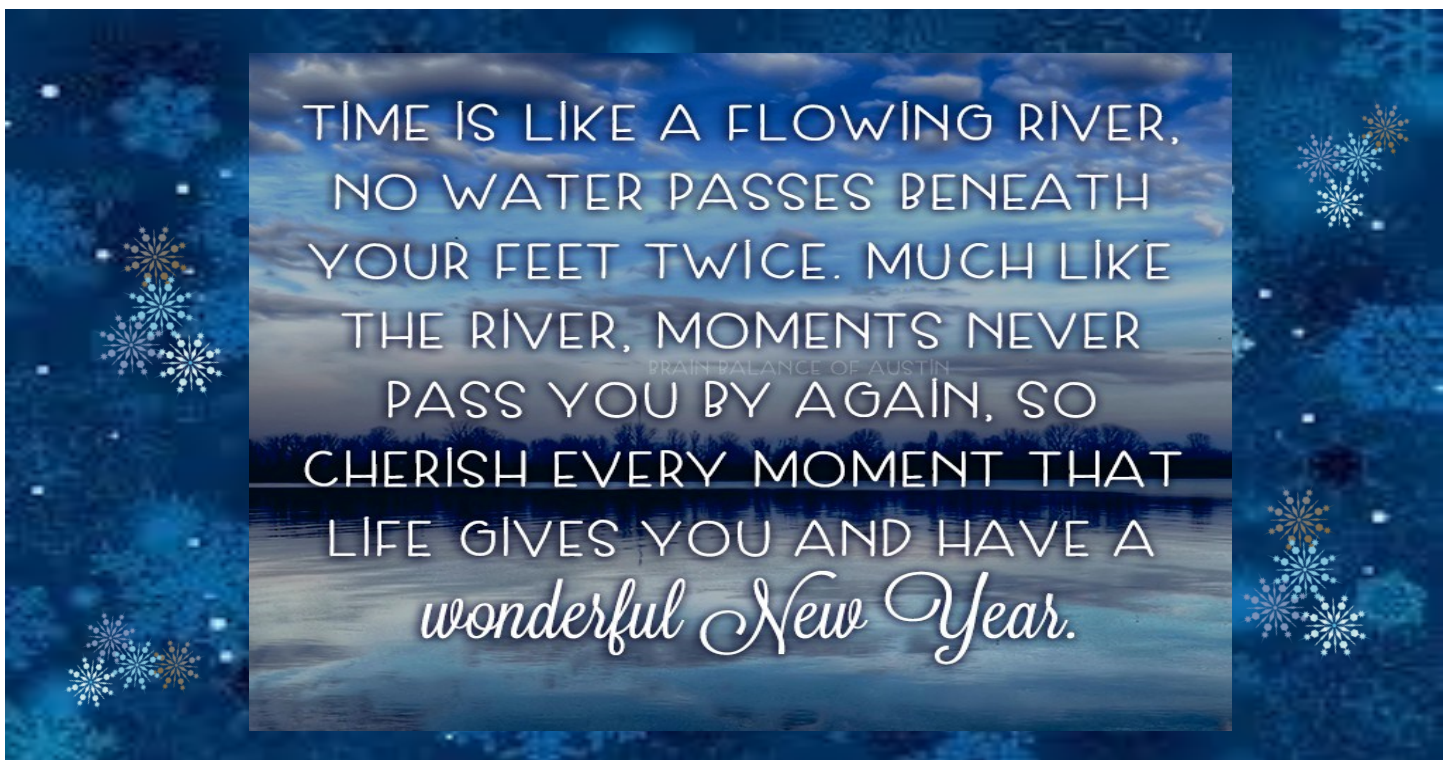
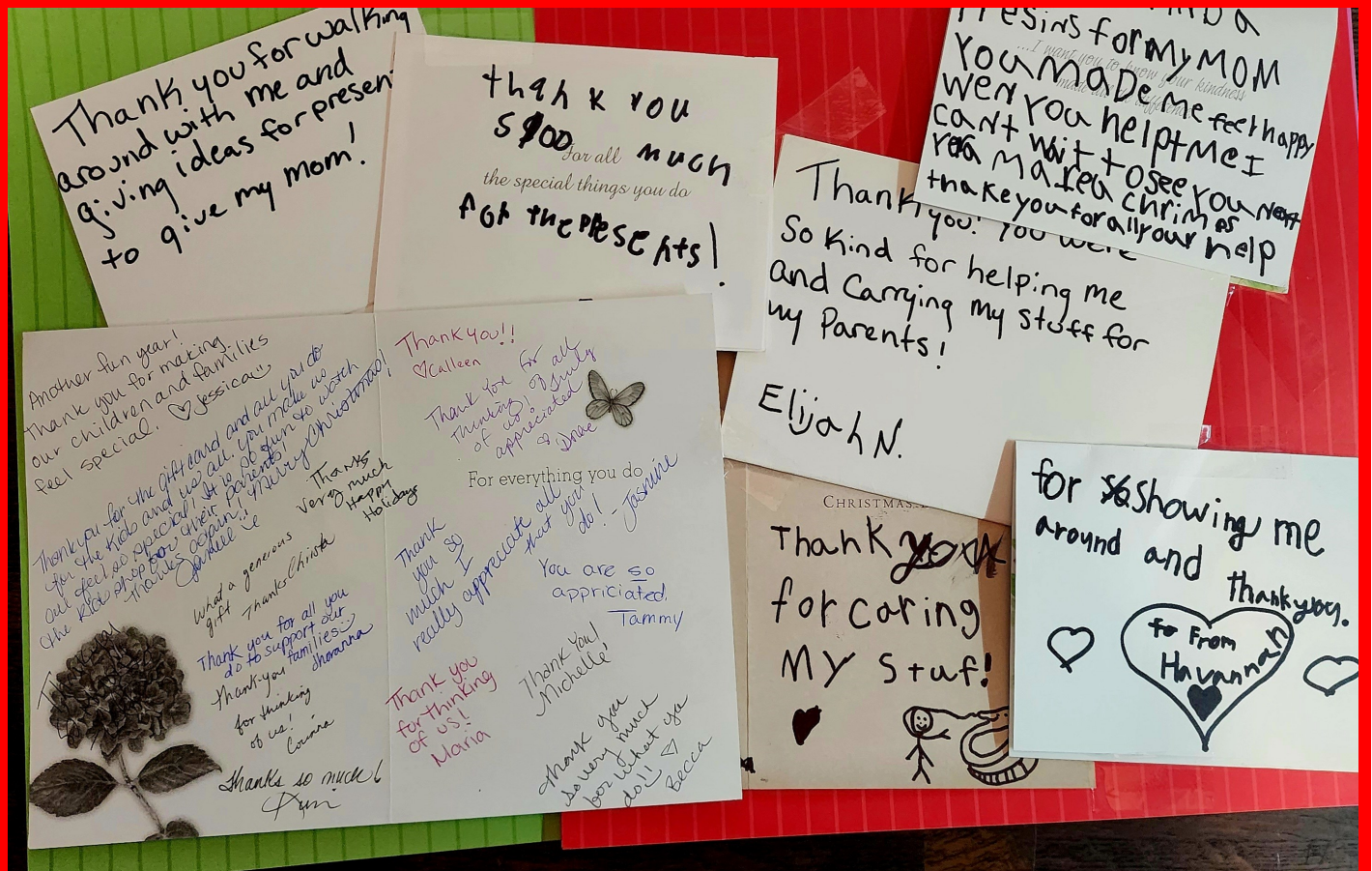
Again, thank you all.
Jamie McCoy & all the volunteers



Kristkindlmarkt 2023



Thank you's from LACCC staff and kids for Kriskindlmarkt



"View from the Avenue"

December was such a busy month for the staff and children and Learning Avenues. The excitement was in the air all month long!

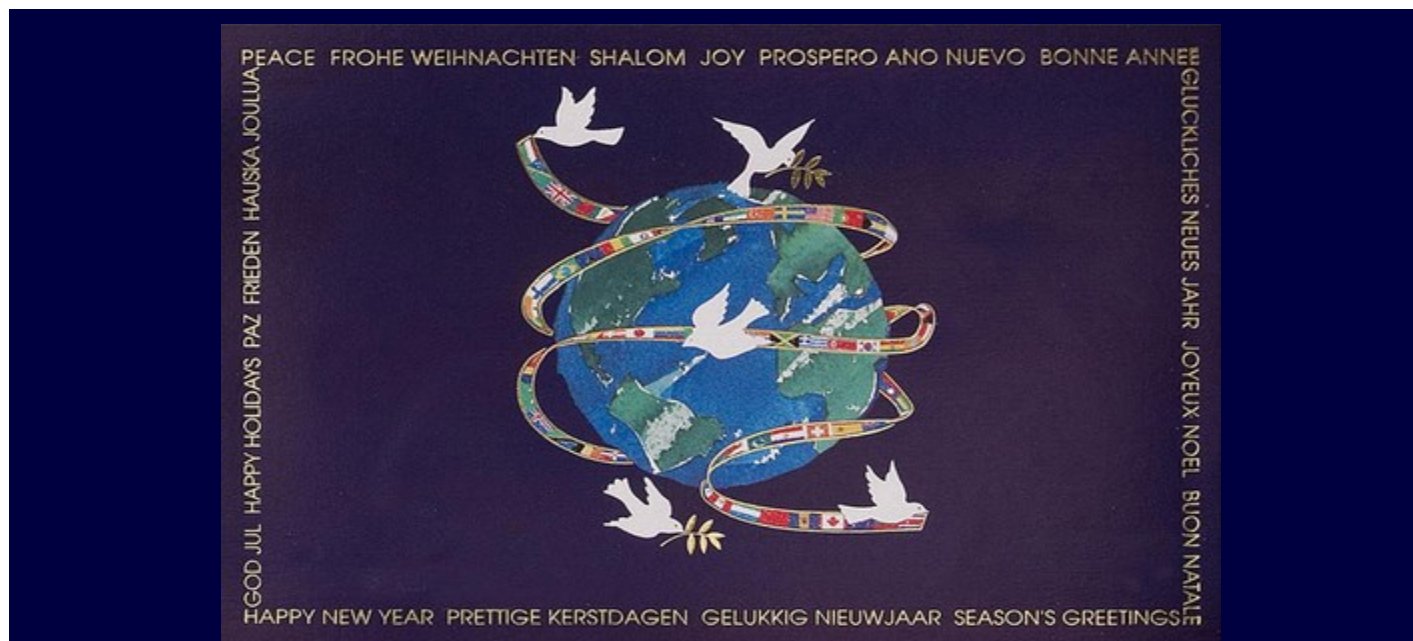
Kriskindlemarkt kicked off our first Christmas activity for the children on December 7th and it was a huge success once again! A special Thank You to all the volunteers from VHUMC and Santa for continuing this tradition for the center. To see the faces of the little ones looking for gifts for their parents for Christmas is priceless. The volunteers go above and beyond with purchases and setting up and wrapping all the gifts for our preschool and school-age program. Thank you also for the gift cards and candy treats for the staff!

Pamona Grange was on December 12th at the Preschool. Santa and his elves came, and the children picked out scarves and hats, a toy, and an activity packet. The same Santa has been doing it for years and he told us he turned 91 the week prior.

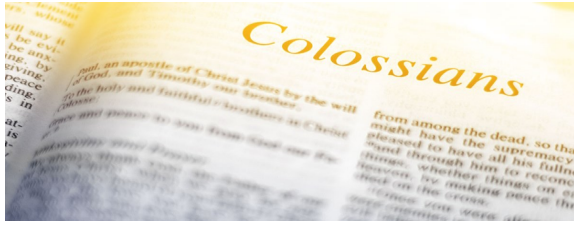
We had our friends from Bonneville Power Administration visiting on December 14th. They adopted ALL of the children in the center again this year. They brought gifts for the preschool children in the morning and then stuck around to see them open them up. The school-age groups will receive their gifts at the School Age Sites. We continue to be so thankful for this continued tradition as well.

Our annual Winter Program was on December 13th. The children from each classroom performed a couple of songs and then we handed out a small treat bag to the children. We have always had a big turnout for this event.

Thank you to all who have donated to the center through our annual Holiday Letter. We appreciate your support so much! Happy Holidays!



9 New Year's Resolutions from the Bible



"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" (Proverbs 16:3).

Setting goals for self-improvement each year is a personal process, the results of which we don't always care to share. While telling your spouse that you plan to clean out the basement by February holds you accountable, it also makes you feel even lazier if March rolls around and it's still a mess.

Having a partner who knows your new year's resolutions can be both a blessing and a curse, unless that partner is God. Talking to God about your goals will give you peace of mind and an opportunity to ask for wisdom (whether your plan is in your best interests and others') and guidance (how to reach your goal).

This year, consider these Bible verses and have peace in knowing that if it is God's will for your resolution to be fulfilled, God will enable you to accomplish it.

1. Teach with intelligence. "Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness" (2 Timothy 2:23-24).

2. Pray for guidance. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him" (James 1:5).

3. Forgive those who have hurt you. "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).

4. Take care of yourself. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (1 Corinthians 19:20).

5. Love others. "The most important one, answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

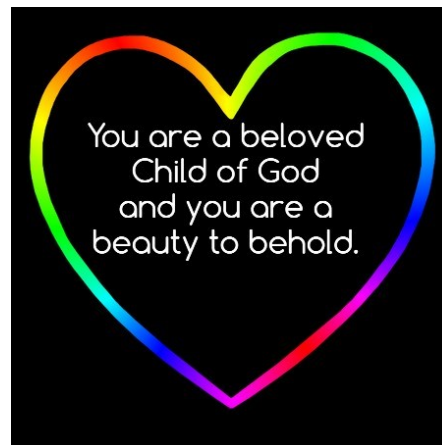
6. Be a role model. "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity" (Titus 2:7).

7. Don't be discouraged by failures. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

8. Value your friendships. "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-11)

9. Help those in need. "Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me'" (Matthew 25:34-40).

Posted in Homeschool View on Thursday, January 3, 2013



Vancouver Heights United Methodist Church

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*We are part of the
Reconciling Ministries Network.
We are a church that is spiritually alive,
radically inclusive and justice oriented.*

STAFF

Ministers:

The Whole Congregation

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Byron Harris

Administrative Assistant:

Lugene Paprocki

Pianist:

Lori Ritchey

Choir Director:

Tony Bump

Nursery Attendant:

Abigail Niehaus



*A Monthly Publication of
Vancouver Heights United Methodist Church*



#iAmVanHeightsUMC
#VHUMCbecoming
#1996TrueNotNew
#iAmABCOG
#AllMeansAllVHUMC