

# 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT

*“The candles are  
many but the  
light is one”  
Rumi*



**First Congregational**  
United Church of Christ



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>4</b>	Annual Congregation Meeting Agenda	<b>18</b>	Book Club
<b>5</b>	Church Council and Nominating Committee for 2021 Slates	<b>19</b>	Pastoral Ministries
<b>6</b>	Annual Meeting Minutes	<b>19</b>	Community Ministries
<b>8</b>	Special Meeting Minutes	<b>21</b>	Hospitality Core Ministry
<b>10</b>	Senior Minister's report	<b>21</b>	Music Program
<b>12</b>	Moderator's report	<b>23</b>	ArtReach Gallery
<b>14</b>	Transition Team report	<b>27</b>	Peacemaking Core Ministry
<b>14</b>	Search Committee	<b>27</b>	Transition Project
<b>15</b>	Treasurer's Annual Report	<b>27</b>	Portland Protest Respite Station
<b>15</b>	Stewardship	<b>27</b>	Food and Fund Drive
<b>16</b>	Business Manager's Report	<b>27</b>	Face Masks
<b>17</b>	Community Core Ministry	<b>28</b>	Soul Box Project
<b>17</b>	Called to Care	<b>30</b>	Immigrant Welcoming
<b>18</b>	Eve's Circle	<b>30</b>	Potluck in the Park
<b>18</b>	Ushers & Greeters	<b>32</b>	Proposed Church Budget
		<b>37</b>	Membership statistics
		<b>38</b>	Senior Pastors
		<b>39</b>	Moderators
		<b>40</b>	Contact List

# ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 24, 2021 | 11:50 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

ON ZOOM

Call to Order (11:50am)

Opening Prayer

Establish Quorum

Welcome

Vote to approve minutes for December 15, 2019 Annual Meeting  
Vote to approve minutes for March 8, 2020 Congregational Meeting

Presentation of background on 2021 Budget

Vote to adopt 2021 Budget

Bylaws Amendment to Article IV, Section 9

Old text (in bold):

The Council shall create one or more PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES for called ministers. Each committee shall facilitate, build and maintain relationships and communication between the minister(s) and the lay leadership and members of the Church. Each committee shall also facilitate a performance review of the minister(s) every three years. Each committee shall consist of **five members, each serving a staggered term of five years, one member** being appointed each year by the Council with the advice and consent of the minister.

Proposed new text (in bold):

The Council shall create one or more PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES for called ministers. Each committee shall facilitate, build and maintain relationships and communication between the minister(s) and the lay leadership and members of the Church. Each committee shall also facilitate a performance review of the minister(s) every three years. Each committee shall consist of **six members serving staggered terms of three years renewable for an additional three years, two members** being appointed each year by the Council with the advice and consent of the minister.

Vote to adopt Bylaws amendment

Recognition of Volunteers

Election of 2021 Officers  
see slate of nominees for Council

Recognition of outgoing leaders and welcoming of new leaders

Words from our Incoming Moderator

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

# CHURCH COUNCIL AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2021 SLATES

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

Slate of nominees for the 2021 Church Council, to be affirmed by the congregation:

Past Moderator - Daniel Russo

Moderator - Margaret Baldwin

Moderator-Elect: Phil Owen

Treasurer: Edward Eggleston

Member-at-large (3 yrs.): Jack Allman-Abraham

Member-at-large (2 yrs.): Kathy Sheibly

Member-at-large (1 yr): Christina Hellums

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2021

Slate of nominees for the 2021 Nominating Committee, to be affirmed by the congregation:

Debb Chapman (3rd year)

Margret Oethinger (3rd year)

Susan Adcock

Barbara Bennett

Cheryl Clevenger

Eileen Deerdock

Ann Laskey

# ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 15 , 2019

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC, Portland, Oregon  
Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
December 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Anne Sullivan at 11:55.  
An opening prayer was offered by Interim Senior Pastor Janet Parker.  
A quorum count was conducted by Paris Hancock and Sarah Vazquez; they affirmed that a quorum was present.

Moderator Anne Sullivan spoke of the past year and where it has brought us at this point in time. She thanked the congregation for their involvements and affirmed that we are alive in meeting needs and in being community. A great Transition Team has engaged with church members and will complete the church profile at the beginning of the new year. Church Council members will begin collecting names of those who might serve on the Search Committee, and they will present a list of members for a vote at a church meeting in March, 2020. The elected Search Committee members will then begin reviewing profiles.

The 2018 Annual Meeting minutes were presented. Leslie Sepetoski moved that the minutes be approved and Scott Sorensen-Jolink seconded. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

## ELECTIONS:

The slate of officers for 2020 was presented:

Moderator: Daniel Russo

Past Moderator: Anne Sullivan

Moderator-Elect: Margaret Baldwin

Treasurer: Edward Eggleston

Members-at-large: Kathy Sheibley (3 year term)  
Phil Owen (2 year term)  
Paris Hancock (1 year term)

Kyle Roy moved that the slate of officers be accepted and Elaine Molskness seconded. A vote was taken and the slate was approved.

It was announced that a Nominating Committee could not be presented as there had not been a complete Selection Committee in place. Scott Sorensen-Jolink will join the Selection Committee and the committee will have names in place for a March Church Meeting. Tim Pollard moved to suspend the Nominating Committee vote until the March Church Meeting. Andrea Heid seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Belinda Moos will continue as a member of the Financial Oversight Committee, and she will, at the beginning of the new year as outlined in the by-laws, assist the new Treasurer in understanding the particular issues and procedures of the church. She moved to change the effective date of her end-of-term from April 1, 2020 (as specified in the by-laws) to February 1, 2020. Margret Oethinger seconded the motion. Margaret Baldwin clarified that this is a one-time-only change. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

## RECOGNITIONS:

Rev. Janet Parker recognized with “Life-time Achievement Awards” :  
Roger and Debra Perry for their many years of faithful service as Sunday morning greeters;  
Julie Blanchard for her many services over the years.

Outgoing Officers and Nominating Committee Members were recognized for their leadership:  
Tim Pollard, Nominating Committee;  
Sarah Vazquez, Past Moderator;  
Belinda Moos, Treasurer;  
Anne Sullivan, Moderator and in addition her leadership and commitment to Family Ministries.

The Incoming Council was welcomed.

## BUDGET:

Belinda Moos thanked the Financial Oversight Committee members and the Budget Committee members for their excellent and gracious work during the past year. She also commended those responsible for the very successful renegotiations of the Ground Lease.

She continued her report by citing budget items impacted the Ground Lease income. It will be used to:  
offset lower income categories;  
pay for search costs for a settled minister;  
appropriately compensate a new settled minister;  
address building needs, inc. a dishwasher, air conditioning, and roof repairs;  
increase our contribution to Our Church’s Wider Mission;  
facilitate the work of the new Immigration Task Force;  
reduce the draw from the Reserve Fund.

Savings to be noted are the result of:  
the restructured music program;  
the use of transitional ministerial roles.  
Higher costs include:  
new staff compensation  
insurance increases.

There is an expense savings of about \$80,000 in the 2020 Budget.

Belinda closed by pointing out how focused the church has been this year in its spending and by affirming that this will continue. She moved that the proposed 2020 Budget be adopted. Sarah Vazquez seconded the motion.

During the discussion period, the following items were mentioned:

The music program at our church is incredibly wonderful;

Camp Adams is a special place and financially independent from the conference; we need to plan for a future line item for Outdoor Ministries as a way of 1) supporting Camp Adams, and 2) creating scholarships to send our children and youth to camp.

A Transition Team listening session also heard this need from families; it needs follow up.

The vote was called for and taken. The Budget was approved.

## MINISTER’S REMARKS:

Rev. Janet Parker noted that reading the Annual Report is a rewarding experience and an affirmation of this church community. She recognized the many hours put in by those who volunteer in a huge variety of ways,

including but not limited to those who serve as Facilitators, choir members, ushers and greeters, ArtReach team members, Fellowship Hour participants, Family Ministries team members, and Peace and Justice outreach activists working with Potluck in the Park, Transitions Project, LGBTQ affirmations, Soul Box Project, and Immigrant Justice activities.

#### NEW MODERATOR'S REMARKS:

Daniel Russo thanked the church and Council for all that he has learned about the church and its workings during this past year as Assistant Moderator. He is very positive about who we are and who we are always becoming. He feels much excitement about our future.

And he closed by sharing his excitement and sense of adventure as well about becoming a new father. Much applause!

Kathy Sheibley moved to adjourn and Margaret Baldwin seconded the motion. The 2019 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12:58.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Hurst

# SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 8, 2020

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC, Portland, Oregon  
Special Meeting of the Congregation  
March 8, 2020

Opening Prayer By Rev. Janet Parker at 11:45 a.m.

Nominating Committee Vote to add members:

Nominees:

- Debb Chapman
- Mary Lasswell
- Paris Hancock moved and Scott Sorenson-Jolink seconded to approve these new members for Nominating Committee

The motion passed with a unanimous vote



### Pastoral Search Committee Briefing and Vote

- Frank Bishop introduced Transition Team members and the Local Church Profile. Briefly introduced
- Search Committee as the next step forward in our process.
- Bruce Bishop moved and Jim McPartland seconded the motion to approve the nominees for Pastoral Search Committee

The motion passed with a unanimous vote

### Nominees:

- Margaret Baldwin (Alternate)
- Ron Clevenger
- Ted Heid
- Linnea Roy
- Lesley Sepetoski
- Gary Vaughan
- Sarah Vazquez
- Nan Wagner
- Rev. Janet Parker presented a brief explanation to the congregation about how the Search process will proceed. The Conference Minister and the Consultant, Cameron Trimble will provide training and guidance for the Search Committee

### Amendment of Bylaws presented by Daniel Russo

#### Original

(3). Prior to any meeting of the Congregation, the Church shall send a notice to each household within its membership. Notices shall be sent by first-class mail, postmarked not less than ten days prior to the date of the meeting.

#### Edited

(3). Prior to any meeting of the Congregation, the Church shall send a notice to each household within its membership. Notices shall be sent by email, not less than ten days prior to the date of the meeting. Members who do not have an email on file will receive a notice by first-class mail. Members may contact the office and request to receive the notice by first-class mail.

Frank Baldwin moved to Pass this Amendment of the Bylaws.

Margaret Baldwin seconded the motion.

The Bylaws were so amended by a Unanimous vote

Closing Prayer by Rev. Janet Parker

Meeting was Recessed by Daniel Russo at 12:50 pm

# SENIOR MINISTER'S REPORT

Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.  
*Senior Minister*

On behalf of my wife, Melanie, and I, we want to thank you sincerely for the warm and generous welcome we received at the end of November when we arrived in Portland. From the numerous cards and letters wishing us well, to the group of folks who braved the rain to greet us as we unpacked the moving pod outside the Osprey Apartments, to the wine and goodies sent by the Church Council, and the fun welcome signs placed all over my office by the staff, you made us feel right at home from the very start. We said to ourselves, "We're HOME!"

After Melanie returned to Omaha after Thanksgiving (she'll be there until our house sells), I set about learning "everything First Congregational," combing through the physical building itself, studying the organizational structure of the congregation and its history, and of course, getting to know the congregation.

This last piece has been the most fun. Thus far, in addition to regular Board and Committee meetings, I have had face-to-face "Getting to Know You" meetings via zoom (or walking outside) with 30+ members. I don't plan to stop until I've met with everyone who is willing to meet with me. If you haven't scheduled an appointment already, I encourage you to do so using the link provided in each "The Week" newsletter.

This coming year, I anticipate my major focus being three-fold: (1) continuing to get to know you personally through one-on-one meetings and other opportunities; (2) helping us discern together what the "new normal" will be for our church once the pandemic eventually subsides enough to re-open to

the public; (3) helping implement those learnings so that we emerge from the pandemic on extremely strong footing, with fresh vision and energy.

One note of explanation about my style of ministry: I operate a bit differently than many of my colleagues. While I have many personal and vocational interests, I don't come to First Congregational with a set agenda for what will center our life in the future as a congregation. To me, all ministry is contextual. I don't come with projects or vision for worship that is pre-formed.

I believe strongly in listening for the Holy Spirit's guidance which, to me, means more than just praying and meditating a lot. It also means listening carefully to the congregation – each and every member if possible – on the assumption that the Spirit has already been at work in you for a long time before I showed up here. This is why I like to know something about your life history, your interests and hobbies, your significant relationships as well as your significant challenges and joys. I also like to hear what you love about FCUCC, and what you don't love. I also like to hear your hopes and dreams for the church and for your personal life.

In my 25 years of pastoral experience, I find that the most significant indication of where the Spirit is calling us comes from you and me discerning two things: (1) where our present loves and future dreams intersect in our personal life, and (2) where our personal life intersects with the life of the congregation and its collective hopes and dreams. In my experience, following this sense of spiritual "call" inevitably results in transformation, both personally and collectively. We simultaneously have more fun and enjoy our engagement with the congregation



more than ever when it comes from a deep sense of “call,” and we do the most significant good for the wider community.

In other words, these “Getting to Know You” conversations are super important. So are the conversations you are having in the small groups that exist here presently and those that will form in the future. Because it’s not just the minister who gets a sense of the Spirit’s call through listening to others, but you as well. In fact, in the two long-term calls I have served in the past, small groups have played a critical role in helping discern our next steps as a congregation and in helping the congregation act with far more boldness.

If you are wondering how you can be most helpful to the life of the church this year – and your own sense of enjoyment and satisfaction – my suggestion is: (1) Schedule a “Getting to Know You” conversation with me if you haven’t already; (2) Join or form a small group; (3) Do whatever else your heart calls you to do in addition to what I’ve already suggested!

I very much look forward not only to this coming year with you, but the coming ten years (or more).

Respectfully, Eric Elnes

# MODERATOR'S REPORT

Daniel Russo  
*Moderator*

If you're reading this, that means you've officially outlasted the year 2020. Congratulations! I'm not usually one for novelty t-shirts, but one reading "I Survived 2020!" feels like it would be a badge of honor. Getting through this past year was no easy feat, and goodness knows that some wonderful members of our church family weren't able to join us in this mysterious year. I hope that this message finds you well, and still living in democratically led country, which is something I never used to think I'd be uncertain about someday.

As I end my time as Moderator, I want to thank you all for bearing with me through such a tumultuous year. I remember back in February I met with the other members of the Church Council for a retreat at Frank and Margaret Baldwin's home. I was still bleary-eyed from having a month-old child at home, and happy to be out of the house and seeing other people for a change. We made grand plans for the year to come, thinking about all of the potential events and activities the church could offer, and how our worship could evolve to welcome in new generations of members.

Those plans still exist, and I hope they'll get put to good use once they're practical again. We had no way of knowing, in those heady days, that within a month we'd all be holding our services virtually on Zoom and streaming over Facebook. A little while after that, an in-person retreat like the one we were having would become something impossible to do safely.

Still, we persevered. The Church Council moved onto Zoom along with so much of the rest of church

life, which, as a new parent, I found to be somewhat of a relief. Over the summer Carter Latendresse organized a respite station (one of many names we had for it) at the church that provided refreshments and bathrooms for those involved with the Black Lives Matter protests downtown, and the volunteer medics who cared for them.

Meanwhile, our Transition Team completed its work on our Church Profile and passed the torch to our Search Committee, who, in turn, found the Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes for us. Rev. Eric received the Congregation's blessing in an email vote, and we bid a tearful but fond farewell to our interim pastor, Rev. Janet Parker, in a socially distanced gathering outside the church in October. Rev. Janet gave us two years of wonderful optimism and enthusiasm when we needed it the most, and for that she has our unending gratitude.

Rev. Eric was left with the unenviable task of having to lead a Congregation that he still hasn't had the chance to meet personally, but so far he's shown himself to be very willing and able to face the challenge. While it's still quite early in his tenure, I think I speak for a lot of folks when I say that I'm really looking forward to seeing what we are able to accomplish with his help and guidance.

I want to thank all of the members of the Church Council for their steadfast service through the ups and downs of this year: Anne Sullivan, our Past Moderator, and Paris Hancock, who heartily deserve a special thank you as their terms on the Council come to an end; Margaret Baldwin, our Vice Moderator who's going to be succeeding me at this year's Annual Meeting; Edward Eggleston, our Treasurer; and Phil Owen and Kathy Sheibley, who

joined the Council this year and have graciously stuck with it through all of this strangeness that I bet they never realized they were signing on for. Margaret, I wish you the best of luck with this mantle I'm passing to you. I'm extremely confident in your ability to wear it at least as well as (and most likely better than) I ever did.

As of this writing we're still holding our services online, and we don't know when we'll be able to safely gather again in our beautiful church sanctuary. It's at times like these that we may be able to gain some solace from knowing that the Bible never refers to

the church as a building. The church is all of us, and what we're able to do for each other, our community, and even the world in our own, small way.

Finally, Dante—that tiny baby I mentioned when I was talking about the February retreat—is now getting close to three feet tall. By the time we have our Annual Meeting, he'll have celebrated his first birthday. He almost certainly won't remember anything about this past year, but I'm sure he'll be hearing stories about it for the rest of his life.

# TRANSITION TEAM REPORT

Frank Baldwin

*Transition Team Chair*



The Transition Team completed its work by handing over the 37-page Local Church Profile to the newly-elected Pastoral Search Committee at a March 8, 2020 Congregational Meeting. Our team enjoyed collaborating on this project and are grateful for the participation and encouragement of the entire church. Interim Minister Janet Parker and Consultant Cameron Trimble also provided significant guidance and support. ~ Joanne Albertsen, Frank Baldwin, Julie Blanchard, William Cunitz, and Ted Heid.

## SEARCH COMMITTEE

Ted Heid

*Search Committee Team Chair*

Just as the Search Committee for our new settled Senior Pastor was confirmed and blessed on March 8, 2020, we realized the implications of the pandemic on our job. The members quickly pivoted to almost weekly Zoom meetings and frequent communication through the conference's Basecamp app, pioneering an almost entirely virtual search process.

The members consisted of Ted Heid (Chair), Ron Clevenger, Linnea Roy, Leslie Sepetoski, Sarah Vasquez, Gary Vaughan, Nan Wagner, Margaret Baldwin (alternate)

Supported by Rev. Cameron Trimble of Convergence and Rev. Tyler Connoley, Central Pacific Conference UCC minister, we made our way. We received and reviewed 31 applicants and were unanimous in our selection of our new Senior Pastor. With much excitement on August 24, 2020, using Survey Monkey for the Congregational Vote, we officially called Reverend Eric Elnes Ph.D. to lead us into the new decade. His first Sunday was December 6th, 2020. The Search Committee disbanded, resting in the confidence that we were led by the Spirit.

# TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Edward Eggleston  
*Treasurer*

Our United Church Funds (UCF) investment funds (building, restricted and unrestricted) in all funds have closed out the calendar year 2020 favorably (up over 10 %).

We have a plentiful bank balance for beginning the new fiscal year. This is due to several actions throughout 2020 that came together in the month of December:

- First the generous giving on behalf of the faithful core of members and friends who give with their monetary resources.
- Second, a payroll protection loan of \$ 60,435.00 was received in June was forgiven on December 30. Funds were utilized in full to maintain existing payroll throughout this pandemic.
- Third, the ground lease rent reduction for most of 2020 was restored to the full amount beginning January 1, 2021.

## STEWARDSHIP

William Cunitz  
*Stewardship Team Chair*

Echoing Mordeci's comment to Queen Esther in the Old Testament, this year's Stewardship Team sought to follow God's call to serve "for a time such as this!"

And what a time it has been! 2020 will be remembered as a year of upheaval, reorientation and dislocation with pandemic worship restrictions, political turmoil

nationally with nightly demonstrations in Portland that focused on Black Lives Matter and police reform, a major contraction of the economy, and the transition between the meaningful Interim Ministry of the Rev. Janet Parker and anticipation for the arrival of the Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes as our settled senior pastor. Through it all it, has also been a time of deepening faith, emerging hope and growth for our congregation as we affirmed our strong commitment to the mission and ministry of the First Congregational Church, UCC in Portland. In some ways, it was not ideal time for fund raising ...or was it?

Thanks to the leadership of a hastily recruited team of inspiring leaders - Bruce Bishop, Bill Cunitz, Karen Horn, Bunny Oliver, Phil Owen and Avena Ward - a creative program of stewardship awareness, education and theological reflection challenged our membership to fund a compelling vision for the future of our congregation. With interactive stewardship presentations, even a video testimonial by Dr. Elnes during worship and on our Facebook page, the background story of our communion service, the extent of our members' impact nationally on the UCC, and the many ways our church has served as a resource for the Portland non-profit community, we highlighted the past, present and future of our shared ministry.

As of January 2021, the church has received 50 pledges for a total of \$131,284. This brings the amount pledged over the pledge goal for the new year.

Many thanks to everyone who pledged and invested in the future of First Congregational, UCC of Portland as we begin an exciting and faithful new chapter in our history.

Thank you for supporting our Shared Ministries in 2020, especially One Great Hour of Sharing: \$140, Neighbors in Need: \$350, and Veterans of the Cross: \$770

# BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Cara Rothe

*Business Manager*

At the beginning of the year, it became clear that our task for 2020 was going to be to find new ways to love our community, our building, and each other.

After closing our building in March, we felt the loss of connection to the church and community. In that way, it has been a lonely year, but we found ways to send messages to the community that the mission of this church is not only alive, but very strong.

We welcomed the public in anytime it felt safe. Part of that welcome came in the form of the Portland Protest Aid Station. I worked closely with Carter Latendresse on this endeavor. The Aid Station breathed new life into our mission. We met hundreds of people in our community that we would have otherwise never known. We created a safe space to process our own fears and grief, but we also shared our hopes for a more just society. We also hung Christmas lights in the office and in the tower to show our neighbors that we are still here with them.

With the building all to ourselves, we decided to use the opportunity to take a close look at all the spaces that have been so instrumental in serving this church and its community for over 100 years. We rolled up our sleeves and began deep cleaning, polishing, scrubbing, and repairing nicks in the spaces that are usually neglected due to constant use. We refurbished all the wood in the sanctuary, organized every closet, cleaned carpets, and even swept cobwebs in the tower. This proved to be a cathartic experience for us. We likened it to what was happening in our personal

lives, a sort of slowing down and taking stock, being loving, gentle, and intentional. It became a type of meditation. These late nights and long hours became times of introspection and contemplation, going inward and taking stock of the nicks and cobwebs in our own lives. The projects continued throughout the year, constantly finding even more spaces that needed love and care. During this time, we took-on a new staff member, Johnny Amundson. Johnny's love for the building and the church was immediately evident. He has been an inspiration and a joy to have on our team. Towards the end of the year, Steve

Eggers, our facilities manager, decided that while he has loved working for the church, he felt it was time to move-on in order to make time for creating music full-time. We are grateful for Steve's hard work for over four years. We are especially grateful for his gift in 2020 of giving the building a loving farewell.



Much of our time in 2020 was spent laying the groundwork for the next phase of the church's life. Members and staff worked on our communication with each other by taking the Non-violent Communication class. This class renewed desire to connect with each other in other in deeper and more honest ways. We engaged in open conversations with each other about change and about how to best prepare ourselves for the changes to come. We Zoomed frequently and connected in-person whenever possible. In some ways, we have grown stronger in our relationships.

While the transition process was challenging and at times, sad, I am excited about our new minister, Eric Elnes, and about a church community that is stronger than ever. We are ready!



# COMMUNITY CORE MINISTRY

Nan Wagner

*Community Core Facilitator*

Nimble, creative, flexible. Those are good descriptors for our Community Core Ministries. When Covid-19 slammed the doors, we opened windows in the form of our computer screens and our car doors. While some traditions seemed impossible, we found innovative ways to carry on, and even created new opportunities for togetherness.

This year the ministries and leaders include...

**Outreach:**

Called to Care: Ann Laskey (annlaskey@ymail.com)

Prayer Chain: Susan Adcock (psadcock@aol.com)

Prayer Shawl ministry

**Fellowship:**

Eve's Circle: Nanci Tangeman and Paris Hancock (eves@uccportland.org)

Book Club: Anne Muir (muir.ann@gmail.com)

Godly Play and Sunday School: Anne Sullivan (family@uccportland.org)

For Such a Time as This: Janet Parker, Pam Fine (mamafine@gmail.com)

Equity Group

Love Casts Out Fear: Avena Ward (nobleoat@gmail.com)

**Worship:**

Choir: Grant Edwards (uccmusic@comcast.net)

Safety: Sarah Vasquez (sarahbellur@gmail.com)

Ushers and Greeters: Julie Blanchard (julieb2@easystreet.net)

## CALLED TO CARE

Ann Laskey

*Called to Care Facilitator*

When 2020 began, the Called to Care group was meeting quarterly. The ministry of Called to Care was to have individual meetings/calls/cards/notes on a regular basis with church members who are no longer able to attend church due to health or physical issues. We each served a few specific people. Mid March of 2020 this all changed. We realized that many of our members were isolated due to the quarantine for Covid-19. We quickly met via email and later Zoom to identify older and/or vulnerable members. We now meet by Zoom every other week to be sure we are reaching those in need of care. This ministry of outreach continues to function in high gear through cards, letters, emails, phone calls and friendship to members of our community who are homebound. Wait! Aren't we all somewhat homebound? Called to Care has focused our attentions on those who are in particular need due to illness, injury, loss, and/or isolation. During this time of social distancing less direct visitation is happening, but Called to Care members still find ways of connecting and supporting. Rev. Avena Ward is our chaplain, Ann Laskey is Coordinator, and we are blessed with gifted members including: Rev. Bill Cunitz, Susan Adcock, Janine Vaughan, Alice Forsythe, Patty Hammond, and Al Horn. We also have a few who help us with extra efforts but do not officially belong to this group, including: Ruth Abbott, Rev. Gary Vaughan, and Rev. Phil

Oliver. As Coordinator I would like to deeply thank all members of our group for stepping up and truly making the effort to reach all in need on a nearly daily basis. YOU are AWESOME!  
Sincerely, Ann Laskey

## EVE'S CIRCLE

Nanci Tangeman and Paris Hancock coleaders

Eve's is an opportunity to share in community with female-identifying church members or friends. Eves are always bursting with enthusiasm to share. Eve's is a welcoming, positive and uplifting environment. Surprisingly it's been a year of record-breaking attendance. Zoom eliminates the commute and parking, allows participation in our jammies and yet is surprisingly intimate. Old beloved traditions adapted to current circumstances. Undies-the-Tree socks and underwear drive went on as always but this year it was less about decorating the tree although knowing there was a tree up in Fellowship Hall gave us all something positive to imagine. Mountains of goods for Portland Homeless Family Solutions and PPOP piled up plus cash donations beyond expectation! Christmas White Elephant Gift Exchange went on as always but this year was facilitated by Paris and Nanci running around like Santa's elves picking up and delivering gifts so all could share opening on Zoom. Instead of the annual art tour of the Portland Art Museum, participants shared special art from their own homes via screen-share on Zoom. We were dazzled by our members collections and creativity. Eve's received a personal tour of the organ from Grant Edwards. The "Know Your Rights" was so popular it was opened to the whole congregation. We even managed our Eve's Retreat, virtually of course, writing love letters to our dear Camp Adams and exploring poetry as a spiritual tool.

The upcoming schedule includes:

Jan. 23 "When God Was A Woman" lead by Avena Ward and Janine Vaughn  
Feb. 27 Stained Glass Windows Tour of First Congregational with Sheldon Hurst  
Mar. 27 Human Trafficking  
April 24 Eves Read  
May Retreat in a real forest or a virtual one (date TBD)  
June 26 Lan Su Visit (optimistic!)  
July 24 Picnic in Willamette Park (ditto!)  
Aug. 28 Service Project or a break  
Sept. 25 Bell Choir lead by Dorothy Coombs  
Eve's Circle will continue to meet via Zoom until further notice.

## USHERS & GREETERS

**Julie Blanchard**

*Usher Coordinator*

Ushers and greeters for our Sunday worship are on hold but we know the time will come when these folks will again be the first face a new visitor or a long-time member sees when they come to church in person. Julie Blanchard continues to coordinate this group.

## BOOK CLUB

**Ann Muir**

The Book Group began in September 2020 and meets on the second Tuesday of each month via Zoom from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Each participant suggests a book to read and the discussions are then facilitated by the person who suggested the book for

that month. This is a fabulous opportunity not only to read books that may be new to you, but also to really get to know each other by sharing our interests.

In the past five months we have read *The Truths We Hold* by Kamala Harris, *News of the World* by Paulette Jules, *Deep River* by Karl Marlantes, *End of October* by Lawrence Wright, and *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. The books scheduled for the next three months are, for February 9th, *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate, for March 9th, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson and for April 13th *The Street* by Ann Petry.

We welcome new comers every month. Come when you can or when a book grabs your interest. Come if you've read the book or not, finished it or not or read it a couple of years ago! The invitation with the zoom link can be found in the church newsletter the week prior to each meeting.

## PASTORAL MINISTRIES

**Rev. Avena Ward**  
*Pastoral Ministry Associate*

It's hard to remember back to the beginning of 2020. In January and February I was able to make in-person visits to members and friends of Portland First Congregational, whether at home or in assisted living, hospital or other care facilities. My favorite activity was offering communion. Communion is that sacrament that combines the mundane act of nourishing ourselves with the sacred acknowledgement of the presence of Spirit in each of us and in all of creation. Communion is an opportunity to tell an old story and have it come alive in our everyday experience. Communion makes us feel connected even if we're meeting for the first time.

About mid-March it became clear that caring for one another was going to mean staying physically apart. At that time we didn't know how long social distancing would be advised. We had no idea meeting on the phone, via FaceTime and Zoom, would become the way we would connect for the rest of 2020. And writing cards, sending them via the postal service, would experience a revival. We had several deaths in the congregation and had to provide care via notes and calls and sending shawls. These latter were gratefully and warmly received. Needless to say, communion was something we did on Zoom. And we found ways to do that, with liturgies that spoke to our conditions, in worship together. Unfortunately, some of those who weren't connected by Zoom or Facebook felt left out. Members who were more tech savvy were tapped to coach those who had smart devices and needed some instruction.

I will be ever grateful for Ann Laskey and other members of Called to Care (Alice Forsythe, Al Horn, Bill Cunitz, Janine Vaughn, Susan Adcock) who have long and deep connections with members of the congregation. Their outreach greatly extended the love and support of our congregation during these times when we are safer apart.

My formal service ended at the end of October, but I continue as a volunteer with the Called to Care ministry group as chaplain. Blessings abound!

## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

**Nan Wagner**

**Prayer Chain**

The Prayer Chain activates and requests prayers for individuals and a number of specific groups as well general concerns, such as COVID-19 patient

caregivers and leaders in our nation's capital. As conditions change so do the prayers, including hopeful or joyous updates when things improve!

Over 50 church members or former members are part of the prayer chain. Susan Adcock leads this group and says, "This little ministry is a joy and a blessing to me personally and I am thankful for all those who take time to pray for others."

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** has no regular meetings or direct leader, but you'll see busy hands knitting away in every Zoom meeting. Crafters who love creating objects of comfort do so, drop them off at the church or sometimes directly to the recipients and let the prayer shawls provide the warm hug we can't physically give right now.

**Godly Play and Sunday School** are going through a metamorphosis. They are in chrysalis stage but if you look you can see the butterfly taking shape. Many youth activities like ministry trips, summer camp and the annual Pancake Breakfast just couldn't happen this year. That by no means indicates a lack of energy being focused in this area. The Godly Play teachers each adopted a church family and have exchanged care packages and letters to keep in contact with the beloved children of our church.

Rev. Avena Ward leads "Love Casts Out Fear" every Friday at 1:30 via Zoom. Just a comfortable place to sit for about 30 minutes, explore various forms of meditation such as Centering Prayer, Lovingkindness Meditation and share.

**For Such a Time as This** led by Rev. Parker explored many topics effecting our lives during this particularly challenging time. When she departed The Anti-Racism Group took over that spot on Thursday evenings via Zoom at 7. They discuss topics

involving racism, privilege, or in Pam Fine's words "A basic premise of these groups is that racism is a problem created by white people - it's time for us to own up to that, learn what needs to be learned, take responsibility, and find ways to create a shift away from it.

The **Equity Group** has no specific leader but enthusiastic membership. This group grew out of our Peace Ministry but established itself within our community. We have the Equity Group to thank for the planning and production of worship throughout the month of November, bridging the gap between our interim and our settled pastors. The core of that group is Carter Latendresse, Sarah Vasquez, Grant Helbley and Cara Rothe.



The **Safety Team** met in mid-February to discuss the implications of Covid-19 and form a task force consisting of Rev. Parker, Interim Sr. Minister; Al Horn, retired ER Physician; Linnea Roy, pediatric ER physician; Sarah Vazquez; Safety Chair and Cara Rothe, Business Manager. On March 12th, based on state and nationwide metrics and guidelines regarding gathering in person they advised that the church building be closed to small groups, church services and public access. In June the building reopened to groups of 10 or less, however, a surge in statewide cases in late Fall caused a mandatory shutdown and FCUCC closed its doors once again to small groups and public access.

Our community is creative and compassionate. Friendly, welcoming and faithful to each other. I'm here to support the wonderful people who give their time and energy to head the various community ministries. What's your idea for a small group at FCUCC? As Rev Eric exhorts us every Sunday "... May the Spirit go behind you to push you into places you may not go yourself."

# HOSPITALITY CORE MINISTRY

## MUSIC PROGRAM

**Grant Edwards**

*Music Director/Organist*

The year 2020 began auspiciously enough, with an exciting year of choral music ahead of us—some of which we did indeed accomplish, through the first two weeks of Lent. This included ambitious plans to make our fine choral program more widely known outside our walls. Unfortunately, the first choral concert that was to launch our outreach effort (in collaboration with the Oregon Chorale) was scheduled for March 14. We all know what happened. Group singing —perhaps the most universally uplifting activity known to humankind—suddenly became a deadly proposition. Our building was closed March 12, the day after our evening choir rehearsal in which we fortunately were able to record “And the Table Will be Wide,” my original setting of Jan Richardson’s expansive poetry.

The silver lining? Our music department did indeed get the opportunity to become more widely known, just not in the way we expected.

At the end of March we all saw the videos that began being published online of various musical ensembles worldwide trying their best, somehow, to do something —anything!—despite the imperatives of “social distancing.” Music directors everywhere felt the pressure to make “virtual choir” videos, ensembles created artificially through layers and layers of painstaking digital manipulation. Although some colleagues of mine almost begged me not to attempt

such projects (they are incredibly time consuming and a poor substitute for true choral performance), I couldn’t resist seeing what direction this type of music-making might lead. There was a steep learning curve, but I happily discovered that my thousands of hours experience in digital audio editing translated very well to video. Indeed, I thought it would be a cop-out not to at least attempt the intricate rigmarole necessary to bring singers together in the only way possible. At worst, we would prove the naysayers correct. At best, however, we would all learn through the process what is most important about singing together, and maybe even have a valuable souvenir of our enlightenment. All of this could be opportunity for growth, not cause for despair.

The results are available for all to see and hear on our church YouTube channel. Before every project, I asked myself “is this worth it? Does it respect the hard-earned skills of our singers? Does it glorify God?” Over and over again, the answer was YES. As much as I cannot wait for this era to end, the skills, empathy, and patience we practice now will surely prove to serve us well in the future. Despite the challenges, much of the music-making I have experienced in the past year have been deeply rewarding, and the evidence is all right there on the internet! Some of our videos have gotten the attention of hundreds of viewers all over the country.

Video productions simply take too much time to provide all the music we might desire in our services. And because of the unacceptable risk, plans to have even small ensemble singing live in our sanctuary have not yet borne fruit. Instead, our solution has been to feature our wonderful staff singers and occasional volunteers from the congregation in regular rotation in our sanctuary, to lead hymns and sing solos on Sunday mornings. This is done

following strict distancing guidelines, with a masked accompanist.

Just as our church services have been sustained via Zoom, so have our weekly choir rehearsals. The format of these rehearsals began somewhat like throwing ideas against the wall and seeing which ones stick: University-style music and theory classes, game nights, social hours, and combinations of all the above. Although all singers are necessarily muted on Zoom due to the dreaded time lag problem, we have even been able—in a very rudimentary way—to have vocal training led by our section leaders, and rehearse for “virtual choir” projects.

I am so grateful for the creativity and cooperation of our staff and volunteer singers during this incredibly frustrating time. I thank them continually for being such good sports, and acknowledge that some of these video projects approach an almost impossible level of difficulty. I have always counted on honest feedback when I've asked for a little too much, and appreciate these gentle corrections as much as the praise when a project turns out remarkably well. As we move forward into a new year, I am filled with hope of renewal for our community, which in many ways seems stronger than ever.

# ARTREACH GALLERY

**Sheldon Hurst**

*ArtReach Gallery Curator*

**Historical Precedence:** The history of First Congregational as related to art exhibitions goes back to 1875, over twenty years before our present building gallery spaces were created. It is of note that this date

places our church beginnings within the time of the American Renaissance when it was popular to re-claim the European 15th and 16th centuries artistic efforts. Our architecture, decoration, and artistic values were part of this general time frame. Exhibitions in our church were held sporadically through most of our history and regularly over the past nearly 40 years. So one reason we have art exhibitions is to continue our history of valuing the creative arts.



**Affirm Artistic Creativity:** Artists use various materials in order to give form to a variety of ideas and urges. That work is also meant to express some of the deepest values of the human spirit. Sometimes the art is understood by many, and other times it is a challenge to prevailing ways of perception and life. It is the purpose of ArtReach Gallery both to affirm artistic activity AND to search the meaning of this work as it applies to our life, our values, and our spiritual ways of being.

**We Are Part of the World:** Our faith tradition includes a world consciousness, from creation stories to biblical affirmations that God loves the world. The world is interconnected now, opening paths for sharing ideas and stories that inform and challenge all of us. The ArtReach Gallery values artistic expressions that come from “neighbors” in other parts of the world. So we welcome artists from China, India, Iceland and more.

## EXHIBITIONS IN 2020: The Year of COVID-19

A list of past exhibitions is a reminder, a chance to reflect, to see what we learned, to recognize the gratitude we have for visual thinkers, artistic means, and insight upon which we can build our responses to the world in which we live and serve.

**METAMORPHORA** Paintings by Anca Hariton explored our poetic, visual and religious understandings of creation. We found many myths around the world that assist the deeper meanings hinted at in our biblical stories.



Anca Hariton  
*The Hora (Heaven and Earth)*

January 5 - February 23 in Chapel Gallery

**METAMORPHORA**

Paintings by Anca Hariton

Flyer created for this exhibition

Education: Creation's Stories

Jan 19 Genesis 1 and MetamorpHora by Anca Hariton

Jan 26 Hinduism and John

Feb 9 Taoism, Pan-Gu and Proverbs 8

Feb 16 Genesis 2 and a Native American Creation story

Feb 23 Big Bang Theory

NO SHRINKING VIOLETS by High Fiber Diet (a group of fabric artists in our state) opened our sensitivity to the creative possibilities of the fiber arts. Variety of subject matter and material means opened us to a sense of delight, both realistic and abstract.



January 5 - February 23 in Main Gallery  
NO SHRINKING VIOLETS in the Main Gallery  
A Group Show by High Fiber Diet (20 artists)  
Curator's Event with the artists  
Flyer created for this exhibition.

Jo Noble/Pat Fifer  
*eKimandwa (A Dance of the Gods)*

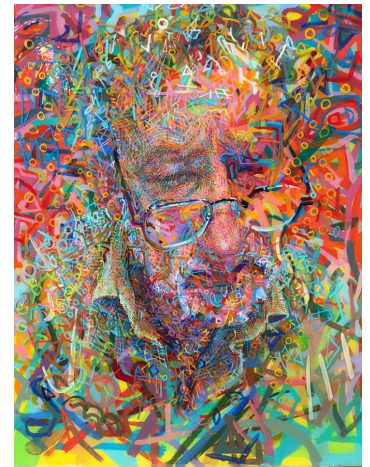
LINEAR / NONLINEAR Paintings by John Hampshire stretched our visual acuity with portraits using lines of various colors, thickness, length, curves and straight. It made us think about how we see and recognize our humanity.

March 1 - April 26 in Main Gallery

LINEAR / NONLINEAR Paintings by John Hampshire

A booklet with essay introduced the art and artist.

COVID-19 altered our plans for education. A video created by Diana LoMeiHing introduced the exhibition online. We extended the exhibition through August.



John Hampshire, *John Capputo*



WATER OVER STONE Photographs and Sculpture by Bill Hornaday called us to see the world of nature with new eyes. The invitation to see the nature of Nature, the beauty of colors that play with our vision as we open to forms of life.

March 1 - April 26 in Chapel Gallery

WATER OVER STONE Photographs by Bill Hornaday

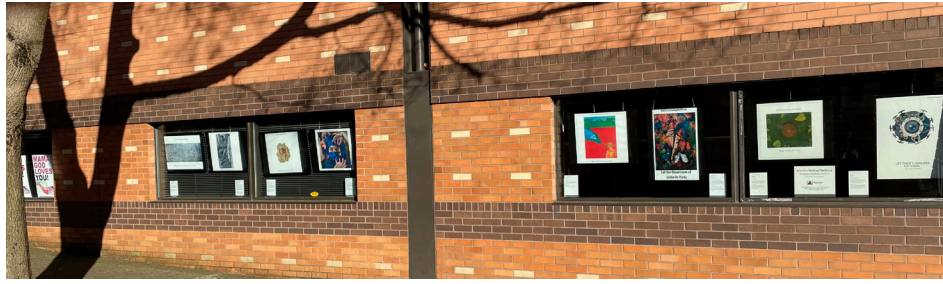
A booklet with essay introduced the art and artist.

COVID -19 altered our plans for education. A video created by Diana LoMeiHing introduced the exhibition online. We extended the exhibition through August.

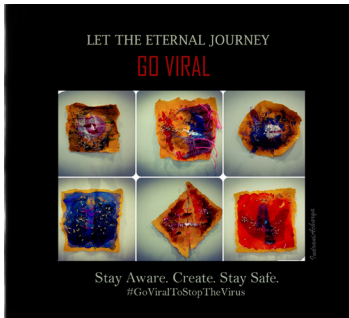
Bill Hornaday, *Aqua Obscura 0553A*



## JULY 20: THE MADISON STREET WINDOW GALLERY BEGINS



CREATIVELY ATTACKING THE VIRUS got us in touch with artists in India and other parts of the world, reminding us: the pandemic is experienced by neighbors all over the globe, and we share a common creative effort to attack COVID-19.

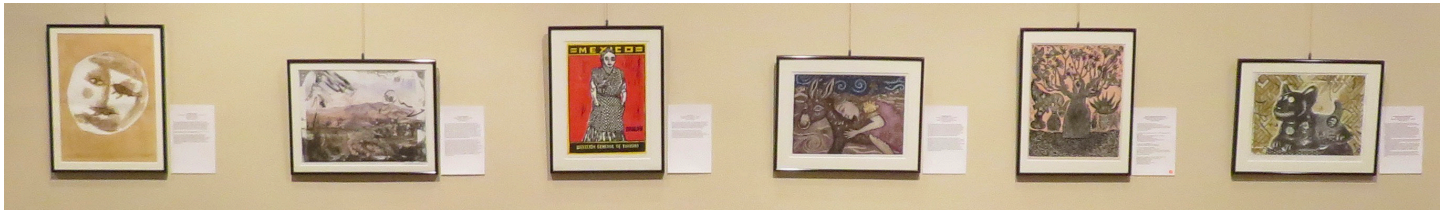


#GoViralToStopTheVirus  
CREATIVELY ATTACKING COVID 19

In cooperation with a project begun by Uttaran Chaudhuri in India, this project includes artists from around the world, encouraging the creation of art that will face the pandemic and create art that incorporates the virus while seeking to make a positive statement about life and our ability to conquer COVID 19. Posters changed monthly as Mr. Chaudhuri has been able to process the art.

Indrani Acharya,  
*Let the Eternal Journey Go Viral*

**CONSCIOUSNESS:** Prints from Oaxaca in the Main Gallery & **TAPESTRIES** by Stephen Karakashian in the Chapel Gallery. These two exhibitions helped us focus on artists' personal responses to issues of Immigration, one of our commitments as a church within the United Church of Christ.



September 6 - October 25 in Main Gallery

**CONSCIOUSNESS:** Prints from Oaxaca at the Rufino Tamayo Studio  
Curated by Abigail Merickel. Co-sponsored by Milagro Theater in Portland  
Education: A booklet with essay accompanied the exhibition

Exhibition Curator's Event included a performance in our gallery. We posted a video of the performance on our website.

September 6 - October 25 in Chapel Gallery

**TAPESTRIES:** Stephen Karakashian  
Education: A booklet accompanied the exhibition.



Stephen Karakashian  
*Impasse*

BREATHING TAO Paintings by Diana LoMeiHing helps us understand the spiritual influence on making art and invites us to consider how another religious language might help us see our own faith expressions more deeply.



November 8 - December 28  
(Extended to February 15, 2021)

### BREATHING TAO:

Paintings by Diana LoMeiHing in Chapel Gallery

Education: Interviews with the artists printed in booklet and videos posted on website.

Diana LoMeiHing, *There is something formlessly created Born before Heaven and Earth So silent! So ethereal! (Tao Te Ching, Chapter 25)*

## ARTREACH ARTS LIBRARY

We are still working on getting a full electronic listing of the books in the library. Our main goal is make the books readily available and to keep track of them. We are on our way and welcome your assistance in this process.

ArtReach Arts Library at First Congregational UCC

### TWO BOOKS PUBLISHED



Two books related to exhibitions have been printed by the gallery. Each includes images by the artists, poetry and an introductory essay by Sheldon Hurst, Curator. These books are available for all visitors to the gallery.

METAMORPHORA, Paintings by Anca Hariton, A poem by the artist & INTERTWINING, Paintings by Zhang Yan Li, Chinese Poets and Poems

## 7 x 7: Seven Art Galleries in Seven Churches in Portland

The group has met throughout the pandemic months. FOOTPRINTS exhibition was postponed to September and October 2021. We created a video to introduce the show, hoping that our 7 churches will be able to focus in meaningful ways on the issues related to human migration and immigration in days to come. We also created a series of art and poetry as a gift to our churches during COVID-19. This should be available in early 2021.

# PEACEMAKING CORE MINISTRY

Carter Latendresse  
*Peacemaking Core Facilitator*

## TRANSITION PROJECT

Due to COVID-19, Doreen's Place as of March, 2020, has not allowed on-site cooking or service, and they have only 45 had residents.

Meals were cooked by UCC volunteers off-site in homes or other kitchens and then delivered. Contact-free delivery was facilitated by calling shelter staff at 503-280-4664, and staff brought out a cart to the delivery cars on the corner.

Tim Pollard was the ministry leader, and he organized shifts over the past year involving four teams: Adcock, McPartland, Pollard, and Broolsma. Now is a good point in the year to find new people who are interested in this specific area of ministry or otherwise looking to get involved with our community.

## PORTLAND PROTEST RESPITE STATION

Following the killing of George Floyd and the resulting Black Lives Matter uprising, FCUCC organized an Aid Station Team born out of partnership between the our Peacemaking Core Ministry and our church's Equity Group. Our Aid Station Team worked with volunteers from First Unitarian Church, street medics, medical doctors, and mental health professionals to provide aid to community members who were peacefully protesting

for racial justice.

Our stated mission, hung on the outside door on Friday and Saturday nights during the summer of protests read as follows: "This church serves the community in the pursuit of peace and justice. We believe that every human being deserves to breathe and to be safe from harm. This aid station supports a safe space for those who are seeking unity and solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement." During June and July, over 300 visitors came to the church, some looking to use a restroom, some seeking shelter and respite, some seeking medical attention from the medics, medical doctors, and mental health professionals to whom we gave space.

## FOOD AND FUND DRIVE FACE MASKS

Lift UP Fall Food and Fund Drive: We partnered with Lift UP in September and October for their annual Fall Food and Fund Drive, collecting non-perishable food that we delivered to their warehouse and that was later distributed to our neighbors in Northwest and Downtown Portland.

A small, dedicated group of talented FCUCC congregants made dozens of cloth masks during the 2020 pandemic. Our FCUCC Peacemaking Ministry partnered with Brother Bruce of HomePDX Church and Paul Davis of Clay Street Table by collecting these cloth masks and delivering them to Brother Bruce and Paul who then distributed them to our houseless neighbors. These beautiful masks helped to slow the spread of COVID-19, especially among our more vulnerable community members.

# SOUL BOX PROJECT

By Nanci Tangeman

The Soul Box Project is a national community art project collecting handmade origami Boxes. Each Box represents one person killed or injured by gunfire in the U.S. The Project displays thousands of Soul Boxes in public spaces to illustrate the number of victims of gun violence, defense, accidents and suicides. [www.soulboxproject.org](http://www.soulboxproject.org)

The Soul Box Project was a few weeks old when our congregation began its close partnership in 2017. Since then, we've folded and contributed 9,345 Soul Boxes, more than any faith community in the country. In 2020, we honored more than 2,300 victims with Soul Boxes.

But our participation is about much more than numbers. Each experience folding is unique:

Folding is a calming, automatic meditation to settle my restlessness. It helps me focus in on what is happening in front of me. Folding helps me feel connected to a wider world, knowing there are folks folding all over the country.

I fold almost every day. Then, when I get a wave of inspiration, I add color and design to those I've already folded. Decorating the folded boxes is a kind of art therapy. My preferred medium is good ol' Crayola crayons, like we used as children, connecting me to Shirley, the woman in whose memory I fold. I explore aspects of her personality, think about what and who she cared about, and bring elements of that into my decorations. Shirley stays alive and with me.

Sometimes I respond to the crises I see on the news, letting my anxiety, frustration and alarm be soothed on little 3"x3" canvases.

*I'm grateful for what Soul Box folding has brought me. I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the effort of heightening awareness of gun violence.*

Nan Wagner

*I was moved when the Rabbi received the Soul Boxes from Rev. Janet and it meant so much to him and his congregation following the shooting. [In October 2018, Eve's Circle members folded eleven Soul Boxes, one for each person killed in the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh that same morning. Rev. Parker delivered those Soul Boxes to the all-faith remembrance service at Congregation Beth Israel the next day.]*

Ruth Abbott



*Folding Soul Boxes keeps me remembering those who have died. My hands touching the paper is a physical way to create a connection between myself and the families who are grieving. It is a meditative process for me.*

Janine Vaughn

*When gun deaths are more common than deaths from automobile accidents, I want to do something about it. How can I help people understand what these numbers mean? Folding Soul Boxes is the only way I know to make the message clear. And folding Soul Boxes has a meditative effect on my spirit too.*

Rachel Stevens

*Why I fold Soul Boxes: Because I feel it puts me on the side of peace against violence, because I need to do what I can, because we all need to work, in all the different ways we are able, to change the acceptance of force as a viable tool in any society. It is not.*

Karen Hurst

## More about 2020:

- We began 2020 with in-person Soul Box Sundays. Many congregation members received Soul Box t-shirts to wear on those Sundays. We would meet at a designated table during Fellowship Hour and fold Soul Boxes together. We often added names to our Soul Boxes for recent victims.
- We filled the display case in the north lobby with more than 800 Soul Boxes.
- When we moved to online church, our congregation members continued to fold Soul Boxes as they stayed home.
- When our church building was open to the public, our Fellowship Hall served as a public drop-off point for Soul Box-makers around the city.
- During the year, we continued our friendly competition with First Unitarian Portland down the street. (We currently lead by 1,000.)
- Nanci Tangeman continued to deliver Soul Boxes folded by the congregation (and those dropped off from the public) to The Soul Box Project headquarters at Multnomah Village each month. She also picked up Soul Boxes from homes on request.



- We devoted time during two services to Gun Violence Prevention: On the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. in January and during Wear Orange Weekend in May.
- On Wear Orange weekend we produced a video of youth reading the names of 50 recent victims of gunfire. We played the video during our service. It was also offered to faith communities nationwide via The Soul Box Project for use in their Wear Orange virtual services. Nanci Tangeman produced the video of Keelin Sullivan, Jayden Laskey, Jo Jo Hammond, Lucy Wohlmutter reading the names. Denise Denniston recruited the young readers. View video at <https://vimeo.com/424185778/852545563a> Download video at <https://vimeo.com/user91812576/download/424185778/7b2b129fbd>
- We continued to provide paper and folding instructions in the Fellowship Hall for people who were able to access the building. Rachel Stevens generously donated a large supply of color paper to the church for Soul Boxes.

## IMMIGRANT WELCOMING

By Bruce Bishop

The work of the IWC team continued during 2020 and is prepared for the new year. Our major emphasis has been on coordinating regular meetings of the 14 Immigrant Welcoming Congregations (and Sanctuary churches) in the Central Pacific Conference. Last spring, Council endorsed the “Home is Here” campaign to support DACA beneficiaries while the program’s status was under consideration by the U. S. Supreme Court. (The Court ruled that the Administration had improperly terminated DACA and ordered its reinstatement.) We co-hosted (with Eve’s Circle) a Know Your Rights workshop presented through Latino Network in October. And in December, we promoted a national UCC sanctuary and immigration-reform campaign which was endorsed by Council and the CPC. We have also continued to connect with the national UCC’s Nation Collaborative on Immigration and with local community-based organizations involved with immigration issues, including the Inter-Faith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ) and CAUSA.

## POTLUCK IN THE PARK

Our church has been doing Potluck in the Park for at least 20 years until we had to discontinue due to COVID last February. The directors of Potluck in the Park discontinued their service for a time due to COVID-19, but FCCUCC also periodically delivered beverages: ten gallons of coffee and ten gallons of hot chocolate. Our church provided four teams of people and between \$50-\$100/month for the coffee and hot chocolate. The four teams each had a couple of people—each team doing the prep, delivery, serving, and cleanup up once a month. Additionally each team did one of the four fifth Sundays during the year. Cheryl and Ron Clevenger have been organizing Potluck in the Park for at least the last 15 years.



# PROPOSED CHURCH BUDGET

	2021 Budget
<b>Income</b>	
4000 · Giving	
4050 · Pledges	\$131,000
4051 · General gifts	\$23,000
4052 · Flowers	\$900
4053 · Memorials and bequests	\$5,000
Total 4000 · Giving	<b>\$159,900</b>
4200 · Designated gifts	
4205 · Youth missions donations	\$614
4206 Christian Ed.: youth	\$500
4210 · Choir donations	\$200
4212 · Eve's Circle	\$800
4216 ArtReach	\$5,000
4218 Other Designated Donations	\$1,000
Total 4200 · Designated gifts	<b>\$8,114</b>
4300 · Building income	
4301 · PCPA lease	\$357,500
4305 · Building rentals	\$30,000
4310 · Annex subleases	\$7,000
4315 · Weddings	\$3,000
Total 4300 · Building income	<b>\$397,500</b>
4400 · Grants	
4401 · Brown Grant #1	\$9,930
4402 · Brown Grant #2	\$101,742
Total 4400 · Grants	<b>\$111,672</b>
4600 · Church sponsored activities	
4601 · Art Reach commissions	\$1,000
Total 4600 · Church sponsored activities	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$678,185</b>



# PROPOSED CHURCH BUDGET

**2021  
Budget**

## Expense

6000 · Community Core Ministry	
6010 · Community general	\$600
6016 · Music Education	\$1,100
6021 · Music Director/Organist	\$25,400
6022 · Choir Assistant	\$3,000
6023 · Choir leaders	\$18,437
6024 · Special Music Sunday	\$2,400
6026 · Organ Maintenance	\$350
6028 · Other Musicians	\$800
6029 · Music supplies	\$500
6032 · Choir Parking	\$300
6034 · Church Leader Parking	\$300
6810 · Member Parking	\$500
6035 · Eve's Circle expenses	\$800
6036 · Eve's Grandma Agnes expenses	\$597
<b>Total 6000 · Community Core Ministry</b>	<b>\$55,084</b>
6050 · General worship	
6051 · Sub. preacher	\$800
6052 · Flowers expenses	\$900
6053 · Other worship expenses	\$1,500
<b>Total 6050 · General worship</b>	<b>\$3,200</b>
6070 · Christian education	
6071 · Chr. Ed. general account	\$3,200
6073 · Adult Education	\$2,000
6080 · Youth ministry	\$2,000
6082 · Fam. retreat scholarships	\$200
6083 · Teen Ministry Coordinator	\$4,840
6084 · Childrens Ministry Coordinator	\$4,840
6085 · Child Care Provider	\$3,800
<b>Total 6070 · Christian education</b>	<b>\$20,880</b>
6200 · Peace-making core ministry	
6201 · Peace-making general account	\$2,600
6202 · Local service projects	\$2,500
6203 · Our Church's Wider Mission	\$9,229
6204 · Pastor's disc. fund expenses	\$1,024
6205 · Open & Affirming expenses	\$500
6207 · Immigration Task Force	\$400

# PROPOSED CHURCH BUDGET

	2021 Budget
Total 6200 · Peace-making core ministry	<b>\$16,253</b>
6300 · Hospitality core ministry	
6301 · Hospitality gen. account	\$1,800
6302 · Sunday fellowship expenses	\$700
6350 · Church sponsored events	
6351 · Oliver Lecture	\$3,200
6352 · ArtReach Gallery	\$8,800
6360 · Other CSE's	\$2,500
Total 6350 · Church sponsored events	<b>\$14,500</b>
Total 6300 · Hospitality core ministry	<b>\$17,000</b>
6500 · Ministerial staff	
6501 · Sr. Min. Salary	\$93,500
6502 · Sr. Min. Housing	\$55,000
6503 · Sr. Min. SECA	\$11,360
6504 · Sr. Min. Health/dental/Vision	\$19,279
6505 · Sr. Min. Life/disability	\$2,231
6506 · Sr. Min. Pension	\$20,790
6507 · Sr. Min. Professional Expenses	\$6,272
6508 · Sr. Min. Continuing Ed.	\$1,568
6509 · Sr. Min. Transport/Parking	\$3,124
6511 · Sr. Min. Auto expenses	\$1,000
6515 · Sr. Min Wider Church Meetings	\$500
6570 Ministerial transition costs	\$5,500
Total 6500 · Ministerial staff	<b>\$220,124</b>
6600 · Personnel expenses	
6609- Comm./Acc. Coordinator	\$39,912
6610 · Reception Assistant	\$10,000
6613 · Facilities Manager	\$28,464
6614 · Custodians	\$20,380
6615 · Business Manager	\$61,200
6616 · Business Manager parking	\$3,300
6617 · Staff health insurance	\$24,930
6620 · Payroll tax expense	\$19,000
6621 · Workers Comp Insurance	\$4,800
6600 · Personnel expenses - Other	\$1,000
Total 6600 · Personnel expenses	<b>\$212,986</b>

# PROPOSED CHURCH BUDGET

	2021 Budget
6650 · Business Operations Expense	<b>\$3,500</b>
6700 · Building and rental expenses	
6701 · Building rentals	\$5,000
6702 · Wedding expenses	\$500
6703 · Sublease expenses	\$1,000
Total 6700 · Building and rental expenses	<b>\$6,500</b>
6800 · Building/facility expenses	
6801 · Water	\$5,000
6802 · Gas	\$8,300
6803 · Electricity	\$9,700
6804 · Sanitation	\$6,000
6805 · Security & Safety	\$4,500
6806 · Repairs - ordinary	\$13,000
6807 · Repairs - major	\$50,000
6809 · Building & kitchen supplies	\$5,000
6811 · Elevator monitoring	\$2,000
Total 6800 · Building/facility expenses	<b>\$103,500</b>
6850 · Annex expenses	
6851 · Annex electricity	\$4,000
6852 · Annex security	\$600
6853 · Annex rent	\$42,184
Total 6850 · Annex expenses	<b>\$46,784</b>
6900 · Office Expenses	
6901 · Office supplies	\$5,000
6902 · Office Equipt. Maint.	\$2,500
6903 · Office Equip. Purch.	\$4,500
6904 · Postage	\$300
6905 · Printer lease expenses	\$8,000
6906 · Web/telephone expenses	\$11,500
Total 6900 · Office Expenses	<b>\$31,800</b>
6950 · Other general expenses	
6951 · Insurance	\$21,865
6952 · Conference Delegate Expenses	\$1,250
6953 · Payroll service	\$2,500
6954 · E-giving expenses	\$1,300
6956 · Bank charges	\$50
6959 · Other prof. services	\$3,000

# PROPOSED CHURCH BUDGET

	2021 Budget
Total 6950 · Other general expenses	\$29,965
6960 · Dues and subscriptions	
6961 · Conference per capita dues	\$3,250
6962 · EMO Dues	\$300
6964 · Licenses & permits	\$1,500
6965 · Stewardship	\$1,000
Total 6960 · Dues and subscriptions	\$6,050
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$773,626</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-\$95,441</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
9000 · Budgeted investment transfers	
9005 · Knapp Fund transfer	\$2,585
9015 · Oliver Lecture transfer	\$2,283
9020 · Restr. Endow. transfer	\$2,161
9025 · Reserve fund transfer	\$37,331
9030 · Pastor's Disc. transfer	\$529
9040 Building Transfer Fund	\$20,000
9050 Reserve Fund Youth Teacher transfer	\$9,132
9060 Reserve Other	\$21,419
Total 9000 · Budgeted investment transfers	\$95,441
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$95,441</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>\$95,441</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

MEMBERSHIP AS OF JANUARY 2020 - 222

NEW MEMBERS - 4

MEMBERS REMOVED BY REQUEST - 3

MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 2020 - 195

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO PASSED IN 2020:

SCOTT SORENSEN-JOLINK

DICK BOOS

CONRAD WALTH

JOHN CLATWORTHY

FRANK LYNCH

ALLAN VAN VEEN

LINDA WATKINS

LAVONNE VING

MARGE POWELL

RICHARD HALL

MELICENT WHINSTON

# SENIOR PASTORS

Rev. Horace Lyman, DD	1851-1854
Rev. P.B. Chamberlain	1855-1862
Rev. G.H. Atkinson, DD	1863-1872
Rev. J.D. Eaton	1873-1876
Rev. J.A. Cruzan	1877-1881
Rev. Frederick R. Marvin, MD, DD	1882-1885
Rev. T. Eaton Clapp, DD	1886-1894
Rev. George R. Wallace, DD	1894-1896
Rev. A.W. Ackerman, DD	1896-1902
Rev. Elwin L. House, DD	1902-1906
Rev. Luther R. Dyott, DD	1907-1917
Dr. W.T. McElveen, PhD	1919-1923
Rev. Clement G. Clarke	1923-1928
Rev. Raymond B. Walker, DD	1929-1959
Rev. Royald Caldwell, DD	1960-1970
Rev. Lincoln Y. Reed, DD	1971-1986
Rev. John Rogers, DD	1987-1994
Rev. Patricia S. Ross, DMin	1996-2008
Rev. Anton DeWet, DMin	2010-2013
Rev. Michael Ellick	2014-2018
Rev. Eric Elnes, PhD	2020 -

# MODERATORS

Harold Cake	1960	Marcia Yeater	1988
George Geist	1961	Scott Tetrick	1989
Reginald Titus	1962	D'Anne Gilmore	1990
Robert Dressler	1963	Charles Knapp	1991
Dwight Schwab	1964	Marguerite Oliver	1992
George Culbertson	1965	Charles Hinkle	1993
Egbert Oliver	1966	Cathy Tinker	1994
George Woodworth	1967	Bruce White	1995-1997
Keith Sime	1968	Becky Koch	1997-1998
George Smith	1969	Julie Blanchard	1998-2000
Calvin Van Pelt	1970	Ted Liljeholm	2000-2001
Winthrop Wells	1971	Bob Groves	2001-2002
George Casterline	1972	Carol Lynch	2002-2003
Robert Jack	1973	Tim Pollard	2003-2005
Laura Lusk	1974	Elaine Molskness	2005-2006
Leonard Garmire	1975	Carl Toland	2006-2008
Howard Campbell	1976	Debbie Knudson	2008-2009
Polly Casterline	1977	Alan Koch	2009-2010
David Johnson	1978	Ellen Bradley	2010-2012
Elmer Moke	1979	Richard Moody	2012
Shelly Reece	1980	Julie Young	2013
Dawn Dressler	1981	Ann Laskey	2014
Ron Zahler	1982	Ross Runkel	2015
Margaret Shafer	1983	Al Horn	2016
Ron Stites	1984	Peace Young	2017
Julie Blanchard	1985	Sarah Vazquez	2018
Megan Walth	1986	Anne Sullivan	2019
Ervin Hummel	1987	Daniel Russo	2020



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

Senior Minister:	Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.	<a href="mailto:erice@uccportland.org">erice@uccportland.org</a> (503) 946-1043
Pastor Emerita:	Rev. Dr. Patricia Ross	
Moderator:	Daniel Russo	<a href="mailto:moderator@uccportland.org">moderator@uccportland.org</a>
Child Care Provider:	Maria Felix-Pedro	
Music Director/Organist:	Grant Edwards	<a href="mailto:uccmusic@comcast.net">uccmusic@comcast.net</a>
Section Leaders:	Joseph Pettit Elizabeth Winship	Adrian Rosales Sheryl Wood
Core Ministry Facilitators:		
Community	Nan Wagner	<a href="mailto:community@uccportland.org">community@uccportland.org</a>
Hospitality		<a href="mailto:hospitality@uccportland.org">hospitality@uccportland.org</a>
Peacemaking		<a href="mailto:peacemaking@uccportland.org">peacemaking@uccportland.org</a>
ArtReach Gallery Curator:	Dr. Sheldon Hurst	<a href="mailto:drsheldonhurst@gmail.com">drsheldonhurst@gmail.com</a>
Business Manager:	Cara Rothe	<a href="mailto:cara@uccportland.org">cara@uccportland.org</a> (503) 946-1045
Accounting & Communications Coordinator:	Andre Cordes	<a href="mailto:communications@uccportland.org">communications@uccportland.org</a> (503) 946-1041
Communications Assistant:	Maureen Gullett	(503) 946-1040
Event and Facility Staff:		
John Amundson	Custodian	
Chris Carey	Event Coordinator	
Mpagi Kirumira	Event Coordinator	
Marcus Lee	Event Coordinator	

---

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - PORTLAND, OR

1126 SW Park Avenue Portland, OR 97205 | (503) 228-7219

[uccportland.org](http://uccportland.org) | [facebook.com/uccportland](https://facebook.com/uccportland) | [twitter.com/uccportland](https://twitter.com/uccportland)