

Kenilworth @ Work!

June 2024



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

**From the desk
of Pastor
Susan McDougall**



It struck me that June can be a month of transitions. For Kenilworth, the beginning of June is when the preschool closes for the summer. This year, sadly, we will say farewell to Allison Hein, our dedicated preschool teacher. We will miss her, but wish her every joy in her new adventures. We are excited and fortunate to have two KCP parents, and experienced teachers, Kara Reavis and Kira Billek to take her place. We look forward to working with them in the year ahead.

This summer we also get to rejoice at a transition of another kind - the wedding of Katelyn and Alexander. And we will also celebrate Eve going off to college in the fall.

These are new beginnings and it made me think of a poem the same name by John O'Donohue, a few verses of which are excerpted here:

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wonder,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of believing
This is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.



We all may be headed for new beginnings. For each person who finds themselves someplace new, I pray for God's abundant blessings upon them in this new season, for God to bend his ear to their prayers and for God to fill their cup with joy. Pastor Susan

Hot Topic Discussion Group - Wednesday, June 26 7:00 pm via Zoom

For discussion this month: Harmful people with helpful ideas



June's *Hot Topic* will be Isaac Villegas's article: Harmful people with helpful ideas from the Christian Century magazine. All are welcome to participate in the *Hot Topic* discussion group. Contact Becky if you would like to receive the discussion materials and Zoom link.



Session Highlights May 11, 2024



- The Elder Training Retreat was held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Vancouver May 11, 2024. Elders had previously agreed that the retreat would also include the regular May Session business meeting.
- Recognizing the need to assign teams specializing in specific tasks to increase productivity between Session meetings, two new committees were formed.
- Elders Karl Berger and Jonathan Jewel volunteered to lead the Properties Committee assigned to oversee maintenance and improvements of the building and grounds including special funding needs. Rick Votrobeck and David Jewel have also volunteered to serve on this committee. Other volunteers are welcome to serve. Most of the current projects focus on the building. A volunteer focused on improving the appearance of the grounds would be a valued addition.
- Elders Barb Votrobeck and Carol Garner have volunteered to lead the new Mission Committee. Other volunteers from the congregation are welcome. KPC is already a strong missional church. Most of the mission projects were developed in reaction to an observed need. The committee's first charge will be to develop a mission plan that is proactive and responsive as well as reactive.
- Presbytery Commissioner Becky Jewel reported that Cascades Presbytery voted to endorse both overtures to General Assembly which meets in Salt Lake City in July.
- One Overture: On Becoming Free from Plastic Pollution is brought by the Presbytery of the Susquehanna Valley
- The second Overture: Protecting Utah's National Monuments and Wildlands for Ecology and Justice is brought by Presbytery of Utah. It asks the PC/USA to join other faith leaders in the US who are urging ongoing protection of the restored Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. In addition to protecting God's creation it offers support of the indigenous people who call this area their sacred place and home.
- Session voted to request a no-cost site security assessment from CISA (Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency), a division of Homeland Security Administration. These professional assessments identify safety and security vulnerabilities that often go unnoticed in public facilities.
- David McDougall has requested a letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, WA. Session voted to endorse the completed transfer request. Welcome to this ministry, David.
- The weekly men's fellowship ended abruptly in 2020, and has not revived post-pandemic. **Men of the congregation, is there interest in organizing a regular men's fellowship/Bible Study at KPC?**
- Session has nominated and Pastor Susan has endorsed the nomination of former Pastor David Jewel to the honored position of Pastor Emeritus.
- The Book of Order prior to 2011 stated: "When any pastor or associate pastor retires, and the congregation is moved with affection and gratitude to continue an association in an honorary relationship, it may, at a regularly called congregational meeting, elect him or her as pastor emeritus or emerita, with or without honorarium, but with no pastoral authority or duty. This action shall be taken only after consultation with the committee on ministry of the presbytery concerning the wisdom of this relationship for the peace of the church. This action shall be subject to the approval of the presbytery, and may take effect upon the formal dissolution of the pastoral or associate pastoral relationship or anytime thereafter."
- Session voted to call a congregational meeting following Worship June 9, 2024.



BARB'S NOTE-ABLE NOTES



The 2023-2024 season for the KPC Choir has come to an end. We were pleased to add Jerry Fairbanks to our bass section, supplementing the choir with some rich low sounds. The choir will be taking a break during the summer and we look forward to special music from soloists.

Musically yours, *Barb Votrobeck*
KPC Music Director

*Sing to the Lord a new song
for God has done marvelous things.*



GREEN TEAM REPORT Recycling LEGO Bricks: A Sustainable Solution



I have an adult son who loved LEGO's. Every birthday and Christmas included gifts of LEGO sets. And as he grew older, the number of tubs of LEGO's accumulating in our home grew as well. Recently, during our downsizing move, I sent at least four large tubs of LEGO's home with Jonathan.

Over 1 trillion LEGO bricks have been manufactured since the mid-1950s when the company began using ABS plastic, which most curbside recycling programs do not accept. LEGO produces more than 60 billion new LEGO bricks each year, which means hundreds of billions of unused LEGO pieces lie in storage or contribute to the increasing pile in landfills.

LEGO bricks pose a unique recycling challenge. Composed of ABS plastic, rubber, and, sometimes, electrical components, they are seldom accepted by traditional curbside recycling centers in major U.S. cities. Many thrift stores need more staffing to sort mixed brick collections, so they are often discarded.


If you have piles of LEGO bricks hiding in a closet, there are two great ways to reuse, repurpose or recycle LEGO bricks besides sending them home with your son.

Brick Recycler invites individuals to donate their unused LEGO bricks by mail. The bricks are sorted and redistributed to extend the lifecycle of LEGO pieces, making them accessible to children and educational programs nationwide, which benefit from their durability. It's time for reuse with a LEGO touch. For more information: <https://brickrecycler.com/>

Bricks and Minifigs has several stores in the Portland area. Buying and trading pre-owned LEGO sets and bricks is at the heart of the "Rebuild. Reuse. Reimagine." philosophy at Bricks & Minifigs. Their primary goal is to provide their customers with an unmatched selection of quality pre-owned LEGO sets, minifigs, and bulk pieces. For more information: <https://bricksandminifigsportland.com/pages/buy-sell-trade>

If your LEGO collection is gathering dust or you've outgrown it, consider donating, selling or trading it instead of relegating it to the attic or the waste bin. With help from: <https://earth911.com/>

Becky Jewel

June Birthdays		Jerry Fairbanks	8	Katie Essick	13
		Willa Ramsey	10	Karl Berger	16

Real Faith in a Synthetic World Recap of *Hot Topic* Discussion in May

In May, Becky presented the *Hot Topic* of plastic everywhere in today's world. Plastic is overfilling our landfills, floating in our water and it's even in our bodies.

Being eco-wise is about celebrating creation, being good stewards with what we're given, and passing on those values to the next generation.

So how can we reduce the use of plastics and other environmentally harmful items?

Here are some things that I have done to help reduce my footprint on this wonderful world.

- I don't buy any products that say keep out of the reach of pets and children. If it's not safe for them, then it's not safe for the planet. Always read the labels.
- I try to buy food from companies that are sustainable. This includes shopping at Farmers Markets and small farms. I buy 99% of my meat from Butcher Box as they are Certified Humane or Global Animal Partnership Certified, ensuring no antibiotics or hormones are ever used. These choices are also rich sources of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, and minerals.
- I have made my own dusters and pads using yarn that I can just wash and reuse. You can also find other resources that make safer reuseable products like Household Replacement Mop Pads by Easily Greener.

Need ideas, this web site has 40 easy ways to be greener and save money and the planet.

<https://www.theartofsimple.net/tips-to-go-green-at-home/>

The thing I love most about practicing good green habits is that nine times out of ten, they're also the more *frugal* option. Being environmentally-friendly is good economics—in our home and budget *and* with the earth. Peace to the Planet, Carol



Kenilworth Presbyterian Church
4028 SE 34th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97202
503-235-3977

kenilworthpc@gmail.com

