

RICHMOND BEACH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SOUND WAVES

From The Borrowed Desk of Pastor Matt

Greetings! As I write this, I am settling into my second week at RBCC. I want to thank everyone who has spoken to me, called, and emailed their greetings—what a warm welcome!

This season is a sabbatical time for Pastor Joy, and I encourage you to think of it as renewal time for RBCC as well. As we enter the contemplative time of Lent, you will see differences in worship designed to help us stop, think, and meditate on God. Worship will highlight different calls to worship; other ways of praying the Lord's Prayer; and hymns that may be less familiar. The biggest difference you may notice (other than the guy in the funny dress up front) is the Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) readings through Lent. As we follow the Gospel story through Easter, we'll be working through the Book of Ecclesiastes alongside the Gospel. Ecclesiastes is a short book that looks at the world and Tells It Like It Is—it's a strong message in a small package.

I view sermons and studies as the beginning of a conversation rather than the final word. Your thoughts and observations on worship matter deeply to me. For everyone who has offered their thoughts and reflections on this past Sunday's sermon, thank you! It's a privilege to hear so many different stories and insights. It's OK if you're a deep thinker and it takes you several weeks for a concern or observation to emerge. It's OK if you're a quick thinker and you change your mind a lot, too.

I know it can be a challenge to welcome a new pastor, even for a short while, even when it's a happy occasion (like a sabbatical interim!). It can take a lot of energy to meet someone new. Trust, uncertainty, learning—these are all demanding enterprises. I am grateful to you for honoring Pastor Joy's need for rest and renewal, and I honor you for welcoming me into your community.

If you'd like to come by the church to introduce yourself, you can find me in Pastor Joy's study Mondays through Thursdays, especially in the late mornings and early afternoons. I'm happy to make an appointment to speak privately or at a more convenient time for you. You can also reach me by email at office.rbcc@verizon.net or by calling the church office.

Blessings in this Lenten season,
Pastor Matt Smith

Church Staff:

Rev. Joy Haertig,
Senior Pastor

Matt Smith,
Interim Pastor

Staci Schulmerich,
Director of Children's
Christian Formation

Sarah Klaassen
Assistant Minister to Youth
and Young Adults

Jessica Choe,
Music Director

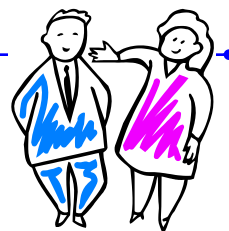
Marcia McLaughlin,
UCC Commissioned
Spiritual Director

Amanda Tingle,
Office Administrator

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"God is still speaking,"



**WORSHIP WITH US IN MARCH
AT 10:00 AM**

**Mar. 7 Third Sunday in Lent
Communion**

Lectionary: Ecclesiastes 4:1-12; Psalm 63
Luke 13:1-9

**Mar. 14 Fourth Sunday in Lent
Daylight Savings Time Begins**

Lectionary: Ecclesiastes 5:1-7, 13-20,
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Mar. 21 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lectionary: Ecclesiastes 7:15-23, 13-20,
John 12:1-8



Mar. 28 PALM SUNDAY

Lectionary: Ecclesiastes 8:2-9, 14-15
Psalm 118, Luke 19:28-40;

**Apr. 1 Maundy Thursday Service
7:00 pm**

**Apr. 2 Good Friday Service
7:00 pm**

Apr. 4 EASTER

6am Sunrise Service at the Richmond Beach
Saltwater Park

10am Traditional Easter Service in the
Sanctuary

**Breakfast served from 6:30 until 9:30
am!** Come one, come all!

**IS YOUR NAME LISTED
as an Usher or a Greeter?**

Names are randomly selected to welcome members and visitors to our church. If for any reason you are unable to serve at your **assigned** time, please find someone to replace you or trade dates.

If you need assistance, please contact the Church office 206-542-7477 **OR** the Head Usher shown below.

MARCH

Head Usher - James McCrackin

- MAR. 7 Worship Board Members
- MAR. 14 Elaine Douglas & Diane Graham,
Jim & Maida Waller
- MAR. 21 Marilyn Barstow, Cathy Shere,
Linda Anderson, Christina Quinn
- MAR. 28 Teri Allen & Kara Hatch,
Nita & Bob Shoup

APRIL

Head Usher -

- APR. 4 EASTER
Worship Board Members
- APR. 11 Cliff Duggan, Scott Wraspir
Essye & Chuck McGuinn,
- APR. 18 Terry & Leanna Olmsted
Rick & Cindy Olson
- APR. 25 Shirley Wright, Barbara Syre
Mark Guarino & Linda Miner



What Do You/We Believe?

Our Lenten series this year will be an exploration of what do we or you believe. Over the weeks of Lent, we'll look at questions such as

- Who Is Jesus Christ? What's his relationship to God?
- What are the sacraments?
- What is asked of us as Christians?
- What is the UCC? What does it mean to be covenantal?

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this class! Members, non-members, questioners, believers, etc. are all welcome!

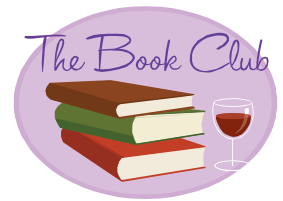
There will be a choice of meeting times - Monday afternoons or Wednesday evenings, beginning the week of **February 22nd** and ending on **March 24th**. The Monday class will be 1-2:30 and the Wednesday class will be 7-8:30. In addition, both classes will gather together for a Saturday retreat on **March 20**, from 9:30 - 1:00 (including lunch).

We will be using a book entitled *What Matters to You? Matters to Us* by Sidney D. Fowler. The cost will be \$8 or less.

Marcia McLaughlin will be leading the class, and hopefully we'll have some input from our interim pastor too!



RBCC BOOK CLUB



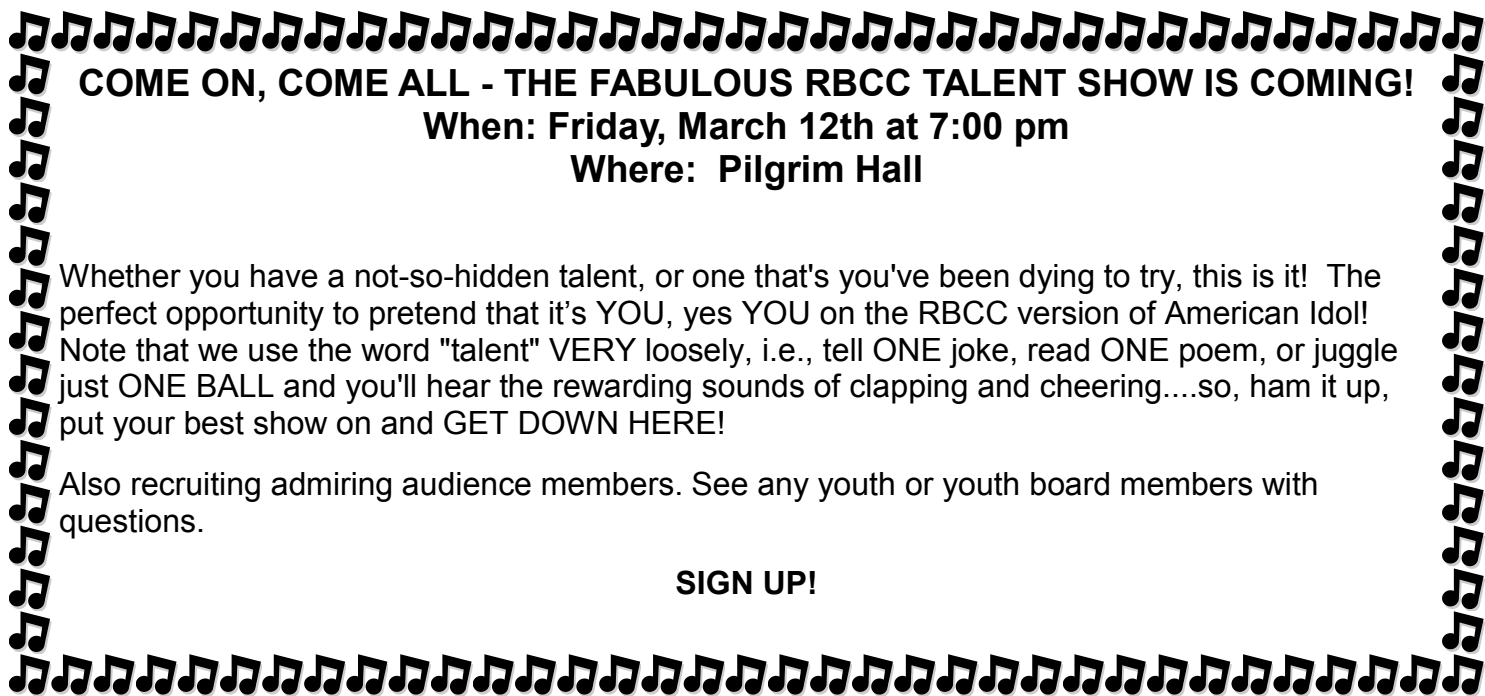
For March we will be reading *The White Cascade: The Great Northern Railway Disaster and America's Deadliest Avalanche* by Gary Krist. In February 1920, a monstrous blizzard centered on Washington State hit the Northwest, breaking records. Near the tiny town of Wellington, high in the Cascade Mountains, two trainloads of cold, hungry passengers and their crews found their railcars gradually being buried in the rising drifts. For days, an army of railroad employees worked to rescue the trains. Panic and rage set in as snow accumulated on the cliffs overhanging the trains. Finally, just when escape seemed possible, the earth shifted and an avalanche tumbled from the high pinnacles.

The books will be available in the Narthex after March 2nd.

Our plan at publication time is to meet at Third Place Books at 9:30 am on **Saturday, March 27th**. Watch the Sunday bulletin for any changes.

Volunteers Needed For Mission Trip Committee

Last year's mission trip was such a great success that the youth board has decided to continue the tradition! This year the trip will include both senior and junior high. It will be local and will last only 3-5 days, so the planning and fundraising will be simpler than last year. To get started, we are forming a sub-committee and need one more adult volunteers to work with our Youth Minister, Sarah Klaassen. Sarah already has some great ideas, so if you are interested, please call her at the church office at (206)542-7477 or email her at office.rbcc@verizon.net!



COME ON, COME ALL - THE FABULOUS RBCC TALENT SHOW IS COMING!

When: Friday, March 12th at 7:00 pm

Where: Pilgrim Hall

Whether you have a not-so-hidden talent, or one that's you've been dying to try, this is it! The perfect opportunity to pretend that it's YOU, yes YOU on the RBCC version of American Idol! Note that we use the word "talent" VERY loosely, i.e., tell ONE joke, read ONE poem, or juggle just ONE BALL and you'll hear the rewarding sounds of clapping and cheering....so, ham it up, put your best show on and GET DOWN HERE!

Also recruiting admiring audience members. See any youth or youth board members with questions.

SIGN UP!

FOOD LIFELINE

**Embrace Shoreline Schools Event
Saturday, May 15
9:00 a.m. to noon
at your local school**

Parents, neighbors, students, and church volunteers are joining together at EVERY school in the Shoreline District.

Help clean up the school grounds, meet neighbors and inspire students to learn!

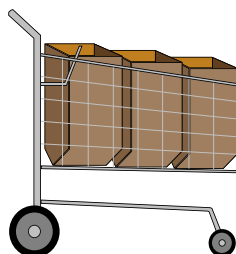
Bring: gloves, hand tools, and a willing heart. If you don't have the back for the yard work, drop by with a treat and socialize with your neighbors.

For information and a map, see www.embraceshorelineschools.org

Recently a group helped repackage corn and salmon at the Food Lifeline warehouse in Shoreline. They did —

- Corn 5,730 lbs 4,476 meals
- Salmon 7,176 lbs. 5,606 meals

Can you help next time?



MARCH FOOD BANK
Items Requested:

Feminine hygiene products.

MARCH

Mar. 7: 4TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS NIGHT PARTY

- Location—The Schulmerich's (Staci's) Home
- Time—4:30 pm

Mar. 10: WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

- 7:00 pm Jr. High
- 8:00 pm Sr. High

Mar. 12: ANNUAL TALENT SHOW AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

- This is one of our awesome fundraisers! Let me know how you can participate: as an act in the show, setting/cleaning up, ushers, serving ice cream, as the Master of Ceremonies, recruiting other acts, etc.
- Location—Pilgrim Hall
- Time—7:00 pm

Mar. 14: SERVICE HERE AT HOME—PIZZA LUNCH AND IVY REMOVAL AT CHURCH

- Come to worship and sit in the youth pew
- After worship, we'll eat pizza, compliments of the Peace and Justice Board
- Then we'll clean up our own church's grounds.

Mar. 24: WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

- 7:00 pm Jr. High
- 8:00 pm Sr. High

Mar. 28: SEDER MEAL WITH STACI AND SARAH

- Everyone (including the 5th and 6th graders) meets together from 5-7 pm.
- We will learn about **and eat** a traditional Seder meal.

**Grace and peace,
Sarah**



February Highlights

The last two Sundays of February, we explored labyrinths – those maze-like structures that have roots in Greek mythology and are also a part of Christian spiritual practice. Ruth Jewell (a student at Seattle University's School of Theology) taught us about the history of labyrinths and the way they can be used, and we made our own finger labyrinths. We also took a "field trip" to Edmonds Christian Church and walked their labyrinth. It was an incredible opportunity to remember that the life of faith is more than figuring out what we believe. Sometimes the life of faith is about our practices – what we do.



IVY REMOVAL PARTY

The Peace & Justice Board and the Youth Group invite you to join us after the Worship Service on **Sunday, March 14th**, for an invasive plant removal party.

We will work primarily, but not exclusively, in the vacant lot adjacent to the parking lot where English ivy and English holly, along with some Himalayan blackberry and Scotch broom, are gaining a stronghold.

Dress accordingly. Bring your own tools. A simple lunch will be provided for workers.



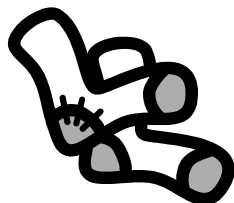
Want more information? Phone Lois Harrison at 206-542-7477.



Church of Mary Magdalene

Church of Mary Magdalene Lunches: Save the dates! **May 1 and Sept 11** are our lunch dates. The Christmas lunch is on **Dec 11**. Thanks for all you do for the Church of Mary Magdalene and Mary's Place.

The donations you bring in are always appreciated. One request, though. If you're bringing in used clothing, consider whether it's really fit for wearing. Jeans that are frayed, clothing that has holes or stains are not wanted by the women of Mary's Place any more than you want it. The worn out clothing that is donated has to be taken away by the staff or volunteers, which takes time and money. Please help us out with gently used clothing. Thank you!



Hootenanny?.....Hoedown?.....and Chili Cook-off? what's that about?

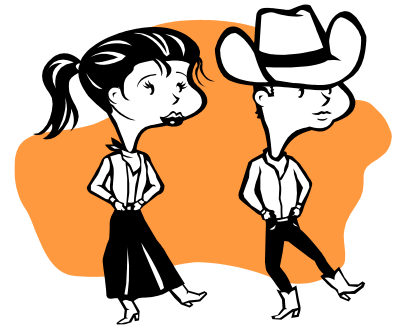
Hootenanny is an old country word for "party". A **Hoedown** is a dance in quick movement, a "virtuoso" display of footwork. And, a **Chili Cook-off** is a gathering with the simple goal of sharing recipes and enjoying food.

Where can you find them all?

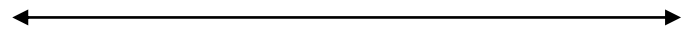
At RBCC on March 20th, 6:00 p.m.!

Cook up a pot of your favorite chili recipe and come on down! Everyone will taste and everyone will vote for their favorite. Which will win? Vegetarian? With Beans? No Beans? Beef? Chicken? Turkey?

Seven Cord Pileup will entertain and there will be line and square dancing. This is a family event for all ages. Families with children are encouraged to attend. Come prepared to have a good time and dance your feet off.



Fellowship Board will provide condiments and beverage. Did we mention – there are prizes?



ATTENTION KNITTERS

We have been asked to consider supporting a Marine by knitting helmet liners for our service people in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Supplies:

- Any soft worsted (100 grams/3.5 ounces) wool yarn that will knit to gauge, such as Cascade 220 or equivalent. The label should state that for size 7 needle, 5 stitches per inch, and for size 8 needle, 4-1/2 stitches per inch.

Only 100% soft wool yarn will be accepted, because our Armed Forces are not allowed to wear synthetic fibers outside the wire. Wool is inherently nonflammable and won't melt against the skin in the event of an accident and is warm even when wet.

Colors: ONLY black, charcoal, brown, tan, olive drab or combinations of these colors are allowed by our Armed Forces. **Marines strongly prefer desert tan!**

- Size 8—16" circular needle and double pointed needles, or size to get gauge.
- Size 6—16" circular needle for the ribbing
- Stitch markers

Gauge: 4.5 stitches per inch in stockinette stitch—Be sure to check your gauge to ensure the helmet liner will fit properly when worn.

Neck Ribbing: With smaller circular needle, cast on 84 stitches loosely. Place marker. Join in round and work 2x2 (meaning knit 2, purl 2) ribbing for 6 inches.

Cap: With larger circular needle, knit 32 stitches off smaller needle onto the larger size 8 circular needle. Leave smaller circular needle in the rest of the stitches. The smaller circular needle will just act as a stitch holder while you complete the cap portion with the size 8 circular and double pointed needles.

Cast on 59 additional stitches, place marker to mark beginning of round, join in round, knit even for 4". ("Knit even" means to knit every stitch.)

Be sure to check your gauge. Even being off 1/2 stitch per inch will make the helmet liner useless, as it will not **fit** properly.

1st Decrease Row: *Knit 11, knit 2 together,* repeat to end of round.

Next row: Knit even.

2nd Decrease Row: *K10, K2 together,* repeat to end.

Next row: Knit even, meaning to knit every stitch. Change to double point needles when necessary.

Continue decreases as established until knit 2, knit 2 together. After this, decrease every row until a total of 7 stitches remain on the needles. Cut yarn 8-9" long, feed through remaining stitches and weave in.

Face Ribbing: With size 6 circular needle that is still in neck portion, pick up the 59 stitches that you cast on when starting the cap portion. Join in circle and do knit 2, purl 2 ribbing for 1 inch. On last row of ribbing, decrease about 8 stitches by purl 2 together in 4 locations around the face. You may need to increase or decrease the number of times you decrease (purl 2 together) so that it isn't too tight or too loose in the face ribbing. This keeps the wind from whipping underneath it.

Cast off. Weave in the ends.

Completed helmet liners can be shipped to:

National Museum of the Marine Corps
Attn: Ben Kristy
2014 Anderson Ave.
Quantico, VA 22134



**Mark your calendars
now!**

RBCC Players announces
its Spring production of

Roald Dahl's WILLY WONKA

May 28, 29, 30
and
June 4, 5, 6



RBCC MISSION STATEMENT

In two rounds of voting on January 24 and January 31, the RBCC Congregation chose "Peace, Respect, and Love in Action" as RBCC's Mission Statement. The new statement is intended to be a powerful and memorable - but brief - expression of our values and aspirations. Expect to see the mission statement incorporated into RBCC's "media" (the website, the newsletter, etc.) over the next few months. RBCC's Long Range Planning Committee, which conducted the process that developed the RBCC Identity and Mission Statements, will next be working to identify missions: initiatives that will represent the word "action" from the mission statement. The Congregation's input to the identity and Mission Statement development process will be used in the initial development of missions, and additional suggestions will be incorporated as we proceed.

Jim Civarra, Chair,
RBCC Long Range Planning Committee

LESSONS LIFE TAUGHT ME — (continued)

12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a "secret", you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take "no" for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. **Today** is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
25. Frame every so-called disaster with these words—"In five years, will this matter?"
26. Always choose life.
27. Forgive everyone everything.

By Regina Brett, 90 years old, of The Plain Dealer,
Cleveland, Ohio

**Richmond Beach Congregational
United Church of Christ**
1512 NW 195th Street
Shoreline WA 98177-2820

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“God is still speaking,”

MARCH 2010 Newsletter

MARCH CALENDAR DATES

February 1 thru April 4—Pastor Joy on Sabbatical—Pastor Matt with us.

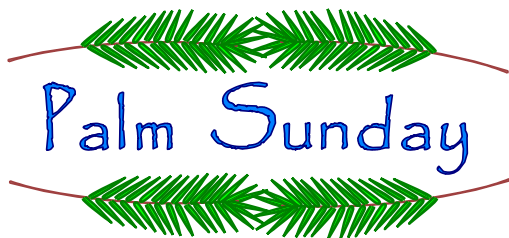
March 12—Annual Talent Show and Ice Cream Social

March 14—Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 20—

- Lenten Retreat
- Hoe Down/Hootenanny/Chili Cook-Off

March 28—Palm Sunday



Be sure to check out our web page for back issues of the Newsletter, One World newsletter and sermons.

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

April 1—Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm

April 2—Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm

April 4—Easter

6am Sunrise Service at the Richmond Beach Saltwater Park

10am Traditional Easter Service in the Sanctuary

Breakfast served from 6:30 until 9:30 am! Come one, come all!

April 11—Board Informational Fair