

Announcements



Prayer List: Family of Bev Denyes, Arlene Cleberg, The Family of Nex Benedict, The Family of Nancy Cihlar, Rhonda Silence, The Family of Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Congo Ukraine, Sudan, Isreal/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

At home and Care Center: Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Tom Hedstrom.

Measure of our Faithfulness:

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2024 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2024, showing a need for a yearly income of \$175,834.

After nine weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$30,432.81.
After nine weeks of 2024, the actual donations and income reached \$47,624.06

This Week at the Church

Sunday, March 10

9:30 AM – Choir Practice (SA)

10:30 AM – 4th Sunday in Lent –

It is the greatest commandment.

Not all are opposed to Jesus, nor is

Jesus opposed to all who are in

Jerusalem or the teachers,

Pharisees, scribes, or priests. Common ground can be found.

Fellowship Following.

2:00 PM – Worship at Care Center

6:00 PM – Cook County Pride Meeting

Monday, March 11

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons (SA)

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM - Food Shelf (LL)

Al-Anon is taking a break

Tuesday, March 12

2:00 PM – Narrative Lectionary Study (Z)

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

Wednesday, March 13

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM – Food Shelf (LL)

5:30 PM – Pizza and Social Justice (LL)

6:00 PM – Sing-A-Long

7:00 PM – Lenten Gathering Cancelled

Thursday, March 14

10:00 AM – Tai Chi (SH)

12:00 PM – Women's AA (FS)

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

3:30-5:30 PM – Cook County Public Health (MR)

Friday, March 15

7:00 AM – AA (FS)

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch (Java Moose)

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

7:30 PM – AA (FS)

Saturday, March 16

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)

10:30 AM – Surely Discipleship Group (FS)

2:00-8:00 PM – Winter Pride Celebration at Log Cabin

Sunday, March 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day

9:30 AM – Choir Practice (SA)

10:30 AM -- 5th Sunday in Lent –

Prophecy! End Times! Keep awake!

Let's dig through what Jesus says and what Jesus doesn't say about when the world is 'coming to an end.'

Does this have anything to do with us today?

Fellowship Following.

2:00 PM – Worship at Care Center

6:00 PM – Cook County Pride Meeting

SHARE THE LIGHT

MISSION MOMENT

LOMANA NA VULAGI ECO-FARM & TRAINING CENTRE, FIJI



NETANI RIKA, Development and Communications Manager for PCC Lomana Na Vulagi Eco-Farm & Training Centre, Fiji

If you walk up the path that weaves through the lush vegetation, you come to a field dotted with seedlings freshly planted in the rich, volcanic soil. In the distance, a voice echoes out "Cow! Cow!" Follow the voice and the landscape opens into a glorious scene of rolling hills under a bright blue sky. Cows low as they lumber from beneath patches of shade trees toward the feed left by the field worker calling them. These seedlings and cows are just the first step toward a grand vision the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) has to develop the innovative Lomana Na Vulagi Eco-Farm & Training Centre. Once completed, Lomana Na Vulagi, meaning "Love the Stranger," will contain orchards and crops, a piggery, apiary and poultry house, farmhouses and a retreat center.

At the height of the pandemic in 2021, PCC bought these fifty undeveloped acres. Border closures had been difficult even for larger islands like Fiji.

Having grown to rely on imports, now isolated Pasifika communities began to look to more self-sufficient practices and traditional foods like cassava and kura fruit.



Workers from the Lomana Na Vulagi Eco-Farm & Training Centre, Fiji

The PCC saw a need and an opportunity to promote local farming to increase food security and develop a model of sustainability based on indigenous knowledge, culture, and environmental stewardship. Off the grid, the farm will use solar power and produce its own bioenergy.

Planting trees will provide carbon offsets. Member churches throughout the Pacific, as well as groups from youth to specialists, will be able to visit, learn, and share Pasifika solutions to ecological challenges like climate change.

The PCC believes strengthening the capacity and agency of Pasifika communities not only makes them more resilient in the face of both natural threats and exploitation from powerful nations, but the Vulagi Farm is rooted in the conviction that renewing the land and the indigenous spirit of the Pasifika is vital to the future of island peoples and their way of life.

Derek Duncan, Global Relations Minister, East Asia & Pacific, Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ