

journeying in Faith growing in Spirit

TOLT UCC

JULY/AUGUST 2026

CARILLON

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

4TH OF JULY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

100% of proceeds go to our
Good Neighbor Fund!
Tell your Friends!
Bring your Family!
Volunteer!
We need Servers, cooks, wait staff,
set-up/tear-down & clean-up.
Please Contact Barb Lewis
at 425.765.8430



In October of this year, I will complete 26 years of ordained ministry, and in July of this year I will complete 20 years as your pastor. I am incredulous that this can be the case. How did the years fly by so quickly? How did they add up so fast? And while I am finding this hard to believe, I must say that I have never felt more fulfilled in ministry. I find myself telling others that I have the best job in the United Church of Christ. Why is that so?

The most compelling reason is the vision that continues to call this church into being and into action. This is a congregation of people who continue to redefine "Church" as it continues to expand their belief in the great mystery of living for a purpose higher than its own survival or glory . . . of spending ourselves and our resources on something that will outlast us. Jesus called that purpose, that something, "the reign of God." Whether or not, we use those words to describe the vision of life on earth that drives us, we agree that the practice of mercy and justice and humility with God and others is the way we walk the talk that Jesus exemplified.

That creates the second compelling source of joy: community. We have agreed that there is power and presence and peace and healing in community. We sense that the journey is so much better and more endurable, when we have the companionship of people who care, of people who speak the truth in love, of people who walk with us through every valley.

And this leads to a warm and real inclusivity. Repeatedly, newcomers tell us that they felt something genuine in the first welcome they received, whoever they are, whatever their story. We may lose sight of the uniqueness of such a welcome; but for so many it is something they may not have experienced before in a community of faith. While it is a great gift we offer, we are also blessed by the people who come to share the journey. May this inclusive welcome never vanish. May it always feel like the normal and natural way to be church.

Every Sunday, we sing as we ask, "What does the Lord require of you?" Our weekly response is clear: "To seek justice and love mercy and walk humbly with our God." This affirmation lies at the core of our identity and our mission. You give and we give, you help and we help, you serve and we serve. This is something to celebrate.

Another joy of ministry in this place is the dedication to and participation in the teaching/learning ministry called Faith Formation. The addition of Nicole Ballard to staff as our Faith Formation Program director, has been vital. Her energy, her creativity, her love of children, her background in UCC camps have made her a great match. She, along with Sarah Rainwater the youth program coordinator, and their Faith Formation team have solidified a program and practice of teaching our children and youth the many different angles of faith, of leaning, of working together, and of having fun. Many thanks to their stimulating programs and for creating multigenerational activities throughout the year.

And so now we turn to another year. But not before I say what a privilege it is to work with Tolt Colleagues on our staff: Tami, Jack, Heidi: Preschool – Deb, Kathleen, Nancy, Brenda, and Old Friends Club – Amy and Bailey. I am grateful for such a talented and dedicated officers, Glenn, Sonia, Dan, Caleb, and Barbara. The roles you fill, the gifts and talents you share, the time you give are so appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

Finally, a word about all the ways you all as volunteers keep Tolt Church up and running, smoothly and beautifully. Well done! Now a word about your kindness and support and continued prayers and care during the trials of the Myasthenia Gravis diagnosis followed by back surgery and recovery. To put it succinctly, you sustained me through prayers, a stack of thoughtful and humorous get-well cards, lovely voice mails, text and emails. And then those personal visits and great food. Plus many of you took the mantle of ministry off my shoulders and graciously wore it so I could rest, heal, and come to terms with my new pace of life and ministry. I am forever grateful! Together we live in the present moment and plan for God's future.

Faithfully Yours, Pastor Stephen

4th of July Pancake Breakfast

**TOLT CONGREGATIONAL UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
4851 Tolt Avenue
Carnation, WA 98014



TIME:

8:00am-10:30am

All to be served outdoors
with take away option.

SUGGESTED DONATION:

\$10 / Plate

Free (ages 5 & under)

Added Donations Welcome!!

Cash/Checks/Venmo &
Credit Cards accepted.
Checks Payable to ToltUCC

SERVING:

PANCAKES
SCRAMBLED EGGS
PORK & PLANT BASED
SAUSAGE
JUICE & COFFEE
SYRUP &
HOMEMADE
STRAWBERRY JAM

All proceeds benefit the **Tolt Good Neighbor Fund** providing
emergency assistance to valley residents.



Learn More
Website



Donate To Good
Neighbor Fund

BUDGET & FINANCE

CHURCH FINANCES - May 2026

How are we doing?

	May	YTD
Pledged Income Budgeted	12,257.67	61,288.33
Pledged Income Actual	15,773.00	67,033.00
Over (Short)	3,515.33	5,744.67
Total Income	25,066.67	112,813.35
Budgeted	21,566.00	107,830.00
Over (Short)	3,500.67	4,983.35
Monthly Expenses Budgeted	23,736.67	118,683.33
Monthly Expenses Actual	17,679.11	116,172.81
Underspent (Overspent)	6,057.56	2,510.52



FREE MEAL SCHEDULE

JULY 1 PASTA PALOOZA

JULY 8 NO MEAL, ONLY FOOD BANK

JULY 15 BCCC

JULY 22 DAVID IVERSON

JULY 29 NAME

AUG 5 NAME

AUG 12 BCCC

AUG 19 NAME

AUG 26 NAME

FREE MEAL TO-GO:

A least 2 Wednesdays a month 4-5:30pm

Contact: Barb Lewis

FOOD BANK:

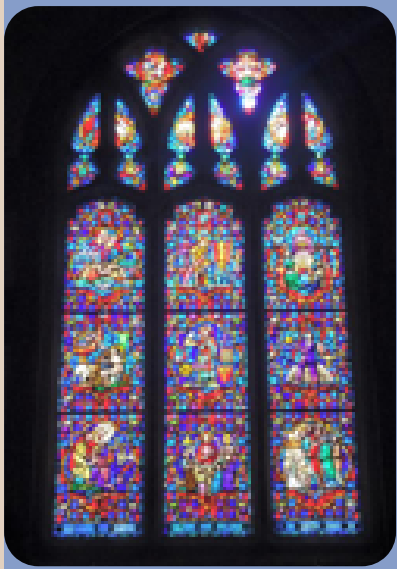
Fresh food rescued from local providers,
Wednesdays 4-5:30pm

Contact: Dominique Lemaitre

FOOD PANTRY:

Out front for any time access

Contact: Kaila Russell



VBS

Vacation Bible School

Aug 3-7, 9a-Noon

LOOK FOR OUTDOOR
WORSHIP DATES
COMING SOON



STAY IN TOUCH

425.333.4254

tolt@tolttucc.org

tolttucc.org

POB 447

4851 Tolt Avenue

Carnation, WA 98014

From Worship and Music Committee

Worship and Music members: Director – Jack Ballard, Pianist – Heidi Stauber, Kathy McMillan, Shirley Doolittle, Sarah Rainwater, Chad Allred, Anna Tinker, Rachael Pearson and Ruth Acker. We, as the Worship and Music members, work together to enrich worship by organizing music to the theme of the service as lead by Pastor Stephen. The volunteers of the committee work cooperatively to integrate diverse music into Tolt's worship services, to give all members of the congregation another way to pray. As we continue using the google doc created by Sarah Rainwater, we find it has been an enriching tool to help with our communication and flow for Sunday service, music selection ushers, readers, coffee hour, greeters and tech. This has turned out to be a great asset for the committee and all, helping us all to stay on track. This year we did some organizing of the ushers' duties and have posted them on the back wall. This was led by Heidi Stauber along with organizing and contacting readers every month. We also are encouraging the congregation to share their talent for Special music during the service. Reminding them that it doesn't necessarily need to be music. Thinking about coming up with an appropriate title. This summer we hope to work with the Altar committee to organize the room adjacent to the chapel, making it more user friendly. The choir continues to work in many ways by practicing at home with the digital files Jack sends out for upcoming choir anthems. We have also practice every Sunday in person. We will continue with full practices as the coming year is upon us. I would like to thank the volunteers of the Worship and Music committee, Kathy McMillan, Sarah Rainwater, Chad Allred, Shirley Doolittle, Anna Tinker and Rachael Pearson. Also, choir director Jack Ballard and accompanist Heidi Stauber, whose titles do not fully convey all the work they do behind the scenes for each service. Thank you all. Ruth Acker, Committee chair All members of the committee will be returning next year. We will have a change in Committee Chair as Kathy McMillan has volunteered to take the lead. Our next meeting will be this summer to planning next year's line up.



Mission & Justice Report Committee Activities from May 2025-April 2026

- Oct/Nov 2025: We held a Cold Weather Drive where we collected over 340 new and used coats, and many hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, socks, and blankets. Record setting number of donations! Distributed during the Food Bank and Free Meal hours.
- December 2025: We held a Giving Tree for the holidays that benefited the Encompass preschool program at CE and participants of the Tolt UCC Food Bank. We collected and gave gift bags with stuffed animals, treats, and \$50 Target gift cards to over 20 preschoolers at the Encompass preschool. We collected and gave \$25 and \$50 Target gift cards to support the food bank participants that asked for help with Christmas gifts.
- January 2026: Gave \$1,000 to the UCC California Wildfire Fund
- April 2026: Donation of \$500 from the Benevolence Fund to Empower Youth Network for Sponsorship of their Heart of the Valley Gala.
- April 27th, 2025: Helped organize the Sunday of Service for the congregation. We had at least 30+ people show up to help at 4+ different locations.

CALENDAR & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JULY/AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JULY			1 Free Meal & Food Bank 4-5:30pm	2	3	 PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8-10:30AM
5 10:00a Worship	6 NO OFC	7 OFC 9:30-2:30	8 Food Bank Only 4-5:30pm	9 OFC 9:30-2:30 7p Al Anon 7:30p AA	10	11 9a Brunch & Sale at Barb's
12 10:00a Worship with Faith Formation	13 OFC 9:30-2:30	14 OFC 9:30-2:30 9a Cong Care Mtg TBC 5:30pm Council Mtg TBC	15 Food Bank & Free Meal 4-5:30pm	16 OFC 9:30-2:30 7p Al Anon 7:30p AA	17	18
19 10:00a Worship	20 OFC 9:30-2:30	21 OFC 9:30-2:30	22 Free Meal & Food Bank 4-5:30pm	23 OFC 9:30-2:30 7p Al Anon 7:30p AA	24	25
26 10:00a Worship with Faith Formation	27 OFC 9:30-2:30	28 OFC 9:30-2:30	29 Free Meal & Food Bank 4-5:30pm	30 OFC 9:30-2:30 7p Al Anon 7:30p AA	31	1 AUG
2 10:00a Worship	3 OFC 9:30-2:30 9-Noon VBS	4 OFC 9:30-2:30 9-Noon VBS	5 Free Meal & Food Bank 4-5:30pm 9-Noon VBS	6 OFC 9:30-2:30 7p Al Anon 7:30p AA 9-Noon VBS	7 9-Noon VBS	8
9 10:00a Worship with Faith Formation	10 OFC 9:30-2:30	11 OFC 9:30-2:30 9a Cong Care Mtg TBC 5:30p Council Mtg TBC	12 Free Meal & Food Bank 4-5:30pm	13 OFC 9:30-2:30 7p Al Anon 7:30p AA	14	15
16 10:00a Worship	17 OFC 9:30-2:30	18 OFC 9:30-2:30	19 Free Meal & Food Bank 4-5:30pm	20 OFC 9:30-2:30 7p Al Anon 7:30p AA	21	22
23 10:00a Worship with Faith Formation	24 OFC 9:30-2:30	25 OFC 9:30-2:30	26 Free Meal & Food Bank 4-5:30pm	27 OFC 9:30-2:30 7p Al Anon 7:30p AA	28	29
30 10:00a Worship	31 OFC 9:30-2:30					