

United in Love



# UNITED CHURCH

## IN UNIVERSITY PLACE

### NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1, 2015

United to Serve

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH &  
AN LGBTQIA WELCOMING CONGREGATION

#### ***UCUP turns 45!!!***

On the same day that we celebrate the past year and attend to the business matters of our church in our Annual Meeting on January 11th, we also celebrate (one week early) the merger of two churches and two denominations into United Church in University Place. The article below comes directly from our website.

United Church in University Place came into being on January 18, 1970 – formed through the merger of two young churches who had been birthed in 1959 & 1961 respectively, Mayflower United Church (UCC) and Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Informal merger conversations began popping up, along with shared activities between the congregations. Six parishioners plus the two pastors met to shape the foundation for this possible new merger. The name United Church in (rather than “of”) University Place was purposely chosen to reflect that we have always drawn members from a wider area.

An affirmative vote for merger ensued, and it was agreed that we would maintain the Mayflower property on Grandview Drive. The Aldersgate property was sold and the proceeds used to build the office and education wing. This new wing was dedicated in February, 1972.

In the fall of 1976, the parsonage on Arbordale was sold and the proceeds were used to add pews and carpeting to the sanctuary, pave the parking lot and freshly paint the building. Part of this money was also sent to the two conferences in recognition of their support of our two beginning churches.

Join us in worship on January 11th as we commemorate and celebrate our past, and the vision of those who brought our current church into being.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Earn Money for UCUP Every Time**

**You Order From Amazon!**

**(Details on page 6)**



## *Pastor's Peace*



The short season of Christmastide, better known as the 12 Days of Christmas, is coming to an end, and we approach the season of Epiphany, the season of celebrating more light as we move toward Easter (approximately two minutes each day, I am told). Epiphany is not just a day, but is the season of manifestation and revelation of God's presence among us. In worship on January 4th we will be celebrating the arrival of a new calendar year, and in a liturgical sense, the arrival of the Wise Ones into our lives.

One of the reasons December 25<sup>th</sup> was chosen as the day to celebrate the birth of Christ, was to intentionally place it *after the longest night of the year*. The idea behind the choice was that darkness needed to be feared no longer, because the light of Christ had come into the world.

As I reflect on my first season with you all at UCUP, I have witnessed the light of Christ within the walls of this church, and within the hearts of its people. Light spilling from every window to welcome the stranger home. In your authentic welcome to those you know, and those you know not yet, may the poem below keep you through this season of Epiphany, and through all of 2015.

### **The Year as a House: A Blessing**

by Jan Richardson

Think of the year as a house:  
door flung wide in welcome,  
threshold swept and waiting,  
a graced spaciousness opening and offering itself to you.

Let it be blessed in every room.

Let it be hallowed in every corner.

Let every nook be a refuge and every object set to holy use.

Let it be here that safety will rest.

Let it be here that health will make its home.

Let it be here that peace will show its face.

Let it be here that love will find its way.

Here...let the weary come

let the aching come

let the lost come

let the sorrowing come.

Here...let them find their rest

and let them find their soothing

and let them find their place

and let them find their delight.

And may it be in this house of a year

that the seasons will spin in beauty,

and may it be in these turning days

that time will spiral with joy.

And may it be that its rooms will fill

with ordinary grace and light spill from every window

to welcome the stranger home.

# PREZ PERSPECTIVES



## THE STATE OF OUR CHURCH

Well, 2014 was quite a year for United Church. We were challenged in terms of finances and leadership, but many people stepped up to fill the gaps. Our Annual Meeting is coming up on January 11, following service on Sunday. We'll meet the new United Methodist District Superintendent, Rev. Cara Scriven, and get a report on the State of Our Church.

It's been good to see so many new faces in the pews, and we hope that many of these people will become active members. But for now, I want to thank the many people who made United Church the caring, progressive, serving body that it is. Without these people, their hours and hours of volunteer service, their attention to detail, and willingness to step in when asked (and sometimes without being asked because they saw a need or task), we would not be the church we are. So, my profound thanks to the following (and if I missed naming you, it is entirely my fault and not because you were not appreciated).

Rhonda Adams and her great kids; Jeff Andersen, Rev. Larry Baker; Tanya and Joe Becker; Chuck and Neva-Laurie Berry; Win and Nels Bjarke; Jane Brazell; Sharon Britcher; Robert Brown; Peter Burhop; Chris Cadle; Ruth Cannon; Jim and Fran Cash; Jim and Nancy Davis; Wes & Ellen Davis; Joyce Demarest; Cathy and Danielle Dimmerman; Jim Fohrman; Duncan Foley; Dawn Foreman; Laura Giddings; Rebecca Golightly; Ardie Herbal; Deb Howard; Lynne Jenks-Dudsches; Rosemary Jones; Mary Jones; Barbara Kearley; Kathleen Kenna; Lou and Marge Lehman; Pamela Maddess; Roger Martin; Dorothy McCuistion; Leslie Merta; Nancy Moffett; Don Morgan; Allen and Kathy Munn; Shirley Paulson; Neil and Norma Rader; Ron Robinson; Pat and Bob Rudolph; Meredith Sage; Elizabeth Scherman; Chuck and Cecelia Schilling; Kris Schrantz; Carol Shogreen; Trisha Taylor; Tamaya Tereshkova; Don and Marilyn Thompson; Beverly Tschimperle; Linda Vanderbilt; Joan (Joann) Walston; Chris Walters; Bararie White; and Janet Wicks.

It does indeed take a VILLAGE, and you indeed have been my village, my church family, and my friends. There is no greater blessing.

Thank you ALL!!  
Pat Mail



The UMC Congregational Care Team from Vashon Island UMC is coming again for counseling to anyone who would like to discuss the disposition of the decision regarding Jen's future in the church. They will be here after church service on Jan 18th, 2015.

If you have any questions about the assistance please ask Kris Schrantz, Chair Staff/Parish Relations Committee or any of the members of this committee who are: Roger Martin, Pamela Maddess, Nancy Moffett, Janet Wicks, Pat Mail and Cathlynn Law.



## PEACE & JUSTICE CLUSTER

Submitted by Dorothy McCuistion

**Thank you to everyone who purchased a Christmas gift** (or two or three) for the ten people in two Family Housing Network families. Every single wish was fulfilled and over 70 gifts were given! The generosity of this church never falters. Nearly all of the gift requests were for items like rain coats, rain boots and even underwear, with only a few requests for wishes instead of necessities. We are sure that Joseph, Virginia, D'Anna, Jasmine, Otiana, Lia, Virginia, Harry, Bridgette and Judith were pleased to received their gifts.

**Faith Action Network news:** The 2015 legislative agenda's lead issue is Reducing Wealth Inequality, which can be partially achieved by Wage Theft bills, State minimum wage increase, the Paycheck fairness bill and increased jobs and contracts for the African American community/businesses. Other issues on the agenda are forging a sustainable biennial budget, dismantling the culture of violence, protecting housing and preventing homelessness and sustaining Washington's environment. If you want to become more involved or just know more about these issues, visit FAN's website at [fanwa.org](http://fanwa.org)

### Family Housing Network hosting:

Jan 31 - Feb 7, 2015

We will need a host of volunteers to accomplish this community service that our church has provided for so many years. We serve 4 - 6 families for a week who are in transition from homelessness to settled. We provide meals, overnight hosts, wash bedding and fellowship.

Sign-up sheets will be posted the first week of January 2015 near the Fellowship table. Ardie Herbel and Kathleen McKenna are our new coordinators and will be asking for your help. Please prayerfully consider how you can serve this most valuable mission of our church.

**Family Housing Network is in need** of additional churches to host families throughout the year. Do you have a friend who goes to a church that might be willing to join the other churches who open their doors to house the homeless? Please contact Joy McDonald at FHN if you would be willing to share our experience with FHN hosting and help her make a contact. Joy's email address is: [joym@ccsww.org](mailto:joym@ccsww.org) or call her at [253-472-5340](tel:253-472-5340).



### Celebrate UCUP's 45th Anniversary

To celebrate we're asking you to bring a gift to one or all three of the gift boxes that will be in the church's entry way during the month of January.

**Box #1** -Pasado's Safe Haven, a pet food bank. Tricia Taylor is the Pierce County coordinator.

**Box #2** -Socks, that Dawn Foreman hands out where she sees the need. Dawn works at Catholic Services.

**Box #3** - My Sister's Pantry, the food bank at 1st Methodist, that United Church has donated both items and hours to for many years.

## *A Look Ahead*

### **Brown Baggers Bible Study Luncheon Group—January 7th at Noon**

The Brown Baggers group will start reading a new book every Wednesday - beginning January 7th from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Or consider coming at noon with your lunch to catch up with other UCUP-ers before we get into the book. We will be reading Love Wins, written in 2011 by Rob Bell (who was the Senior Pastor at Mars Hill Church in Michigan, not Seattle). Love Wins is a book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived. Bell addresses one of the most controversial issues of faith—the afterlife—arguing, would a loving God send people to eternal torment forever...? Bell puts hell on trial, and his message is hopeful—eternal life doesn't start when we die; it starts right now. And ultimately, Love Wins. Join us for a good read, as you are surrounded by good souls. Pick up your \$15 copy in the office.



### **UCUP Annual Meeting—January 11th at 11:45**

Everyone is welcome to join us for our annual meeting. Hope to see you there!

### **Lecture at Seattle School of Theology & Psychology—January 14 at 7 p.m.**

If you are interested in Celtic Spirituality or the sacredness of the environment, consider attending this lecture. Rev. John Philip Newell (poet, peacemaker, a minister in the Church of Scotland, revered for his work within Celtic Spirituality) is also the co-founder of Heartbeat: A Journey Towards Earth's Well Being. Rev. Newell will be offering an evening lecture on Celtic Consciousness: The Sacredness of the Earth. In the midst of dramatic changes in Western Christianity, Newell offers the hope of a fresh stirring of the Spirit among us.

Let Pastor Cathy know if you are interested in joining her for this lecture in Seattle. (\$25)

### **4th Sunday Forum, January 25th at 11:30am**

#### **The Art and Science of Gratitude**

What are you grateful for?

Please join Rhonda and Kathleen at a workshop designing gratitude journals.

We'll talk about current research on the benefits of gratitude, and we'll have fun personalizing journals.

Bring your own journal or get a "starter" one free.

### **Families Unlimited Network Hosting—January 31st—February 7th**



**Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th** this year. More information to come in the February newsletter.

### **Interfaith Advocacy Day Act on the Dream:**

#### **Invest in the Common Good**

#### **Thursday, February 19th 8 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Faith Action Network will be sponsoring Interfaith Advocacy Day across the state of Washington. United Churches in Olympia will be the host site on February 19th. Join advocates in your legislative district to bring the voice of compassion and justice to our elected Officials. Pastor Cathy will be attending, and hopefully a few others from UCUP. Tickets are \$15 which includes lunch.

## To all congregants

I want to inform you that Bev Tschimperle has asked us to accept her resignation from the position of Family Minister here at UCUP. She has served us well and the youths will miss her ability to help them with direction. Staff/Parish Relations Committee has accepted her resignation effective Dec. 31, 2014. We will advise you as to when we will be looking for a replacement.

Kris Schrantz  
Chair Staff/Parish Relations

## The Bible in 50 Words

God made  
Adam bit  
Noah arked  
Abraham split  
Joseph ruled  
Jacob fooled  
Bush talked  
Moses balked  
Pharaoh plagued  
People walked  
Sea divided  
Tablets guided  
Promise landed  
Saul freaked  
David peeked  
Prophets warned  
Jesus born  
God walked  
Love talked  
Anger crucified  
Hope died  
Love rose  
Spirit flamed  
Word spread  
God remained  
  
Amen

## Welcome to AmazonSmile

Do you shop on Amazon?

Would you like 0.5% of your Amazon purchases given to UCUP?

**It is super easy!**

### **You shop. Amazon gives**

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service with the added benefit of supporting local charities.

To support UCUP, just use the below link to start shopping!

[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

Type **United Church in University Place** into the Search Box and select Search.

**This will add us as your donation recipient.**

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon-Smile purchases to **United Church in University Place** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

If you would like some help, contact Lynne in the church office and she will be happy to get you set up to shop!

## Seven-up Dinner Groups

Do you like to eat? Do you like to get to know new people or make a deeper connection with people you already know? If so, consider signing up for a Seven-up Dinner Group. These are groups consisting of 7-9 people, who host a meal (potluck style) in each other's homes, at a local no-host restaurant, or at the church. Groups will plan to get together at a mutually agreed upon time/place for a few meals from February - June of this year. The emphasis is on fun and fellowship, so you won't necessarily need to host a meal in your home, or be a great cook to participate. This is a great way to meet new people at church, break bread around the table, and share stories and laughter together. Sign up by January 25th in the foyer or by calling the church office.

**Happy  
Birthday  
January 2015**



- 1 Jim Fohrman
- 2 Jon Foreman
- 10 Elizabeth Ketchem

- 16 Randi Byrd
- Elizabeth Scherman
- 18 United Church
- 20 Hadi Dadashian
- 21 Cierra Gillard
- 25 Joan Martin
- 28 Mildred Seales
- Michelle Wallace

Sat

Fri

Thu

Wed

Tue

Mon

2015 Sun

			1 New Year's Day Out of the Office	2	3
4	Epiphany Sunday	5 5pm SPRC Meetings 6:30pm Board Mtg.	6 10am Cong Care Mtg. 11:45am P&J Mtg. 1pm Alz Grp	7 Noon Brown Baggers 5:30-8 pm Blue Heron Zen Group	8 6:30pm Finance mtg 7:15pm Choir
11	11:45am Annual Mtg. UCUP 45th Anniversary	12	13	14 Noon Brown Baggers 5:30-8 pm Blue Heron Zen Group	15 7:30pm Blue Christmas Service
18		19	20	21 NoonBRN Baggers 5pm FSG 5:30-8 pm Blue Heron	22
25	11:45am 4th Sunday Forum Topic: Art & Science of Gratitude	26	27	28 Noon Brown Baggers 5:30-8 pm Blue Heron	29
					30
					31 Hosting Family Housing Network thru Feb7th

\* Every Sunday – 9am Adult Sunday School : 10am Worship : 10:15am Children's Sunday School  
First Sunday of the Month – Communion & 2:30pm Worship Service at Rainier Rehabilitation – Join Us!

## Newsletter

Vol. 32, No. 12  
January 1, 2015

### United Church In University Place

3912 Grandview Dr W  
University Place, WA  
98466



## Weekly

### Sundays

10am Worship Service  
10:15am Children's Sunday  
School (4yrs & up)

### Wednesdays

Noon-2pm Brown Baggers  
Luncheon & Bible Study Group  
(Sept—May)

6pm Blue Heron Zen Meditation  
Community Gathering

### Thursdays

7:15pm Choir Practice  
(Sept—May)

## Monthly

**1st Sunday of the month**  
Communion during worship

2:30pm Worship Service at  
Rainier Rehabilitation in Puyallup

**1st Tuesday of the month**  
1pm Alzheimer's Support Grp.

**3rd Friday of the month**  
6:30pm PB & Jam  
Bring your instruments!

**4th Sunday of the month**  
11:45am 4th Sunday Forum

**4th Saturday of the month**  
4-7pm Parents Night Out

# WELCOME

No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey, you're  
here.

Periodicals  
Postage Paid at  
Tacoma WA 98413

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
UNITED CHURCH IN UNIVERSITY PLACE  
3912 GRANVIEW DR. W  
UNIVERSITY PLACE WA 98466  
SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ABOVE ADDRESS  
POSTMASTER: