

United in Love



# UNITED CHURCH

# IN UNIVERSITY PLACE

## NEWSLETTER

### FEBRUARY 1, 2015

United to Serve

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



#### SHROVE TUESDAY / FAT TUESDAY / MARDI GRAS PANCAKE FEAST

We will begin Lent this year with a pancake feast on Sunday, February 15, immediately following worship. Carnival, which comes from a Latin phrase meaning "removal of eat," is the three day period before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The day before Ash Wednesday is called Shrove Tuesday, or more popularly known by the French term Mardi Gras, meaning "Fat Tuesday," a contrast to the fasting during Lent. It is also known as Shrovetide ("shrove" is an Old English word meaning "to repent"). The entire three day period has now come to be known in many areas as Mardi Gras. During this Shrovetide, people partied and ate up all the fatty foods which were forbidden during the 40 days of Lent. Fat Tuesday was named from the custom of eating meat, eggs, fat, and milk. Often pancakes were the meal of the day, for people could consume much of the soon-to-be-forbidden food. Carnival or Mardi Gras is a period of celebration, originally a festival before the fasting during the season of Lent.

Many churches now observe Mardi Gras with a pancake meal, eating together as a community before the symbolic fasting of Lent begins. We are changing the tradition from Tuesday to Sunday.

Following our meal, we will burn the palms from Palm Sunday 2014 in order to have ash for our Ash Wednesday service. So, plan to come with a hungry stomach, as we celebrate the last few days before Lent begins. There will be pancake races, and mask-making, and coloring Alleluia banners that we will bury during Lent. If you have amazing skills flipping pancakes, talk to Pastor Cathy. We will definitely need help in the kitchen that day!

#### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE FEBRUARY 18TH 7 P.M. SANCTUARY

Join us for a meditative service at 7 p.m. to receive the imposition of ashes. In the ritual of Ash Wednesday, which begins the Lenten journey through the desert, we receive a cross-shaped smudge on our forehead. The ashen sign reminds us that we are dust, and to dust we will return. We begin this desert journey marked with ashes, the sign of our mortality. In remembering that we will die, we are called to remember God who is the source of our life. The season of Lent invites us into wilderness places where we remember what is most essential to us.



## *Pastor's Peace*



A few years ago, Angie & I hiked miles and miles of the red rock trails in Sedona. During one hike, we got off the main trail. We were following up a wash (a dry creek bed) trying to find our way back to the trail. A feeling of uncertainty washed over us, a sense of feeling lost. We ended up backtracking quite a distance before we knew we were back on the right track. How did we know we were on the right path? Because we had learned to recognize a pile of rocks in a wire cage that designated the path. It was a moment to breathe a sigh of relief, knowing we were on the correct path. And it was significant to acknowledge so many who traveled this same journey, and to think that many more would come after we were gone, walking in the same footsteps.

These piles of rocks have a name: Cairn. And the symbol of the Cairn will lead us through the wilderness of the Lenten Journey. It is an inward journey, finding the cairns of life that point the spiritual path – through the life of Jesus in the Gospels, through spiritual practices, through personal experience. But the Lenten Journey is also communal – we are to become spiritual cairns that help others find their path of living a life in Christ.

As I did some research on cairns, I found this helpful summary from Wikipedia.

**A cairn** is an artificial pile of stones. They are built for several purposes.

- They may mark a burial site, to memorialize the dead.
- They may mark the summit of a mountain.
- Placed at regular intervals, they indicate a path across stony or barren terrain



The Inuit erect human-shaped cairns, or inuksuit as milestones or directional markers in the Canadian Arctic.

The word derives from the Scottish Gaelic càrn which has a much broader meaning, and can refer to various types of hills and natural stone piles. In Scotland, it is traditional to carry a stone up from the bottom of the hill to place on a cairn. In this way, cairns grow ever larger. Today cairns are often used to mark hiking trails or cross country routes in mountain regions. Most are small, but a few are built taller so as to protrude through a layer of snow. It is traditional for each person passing by a cairn to add a stone, as a small bit of maintenance to counteract the destructive effects of severe winter weather.

In the Faroe Islands, plagued by frequent fogs and heavy rain, with some of the highest sea cliffs in the world, cairns are a navigational marker over rugged and hilly terrain.

It is noteworthy that there is a Jewish tradition of placing small stones on a person's grave whenever you visit, as a token of respect instead of flowers. When you come for worship on Ash Wednesday, you will notice a cairn on the altar and possibly a few other places around the church. You will have an opportunity to participate in the Lenten journey by placing prayers in the rocks throughout Lent. This will be our symbol of finding the path that leads to Jesus, knowing that countless saints throughout the ages have travelled the same spiritual journey.



As we journey together, we will find the cairns of life that continue to point us to Christ.

Peace to you during this Lenten season,  
Pastor Cathy

## PREZ PERSPECTIVES



We are the beginning of a new year, and grateful for it. The annual meeting was very well attended and the food disappeared. We heard from our new District Superintendent, Rev. Cara Scriven, who left us with a challenge for the year. I am deeply grateful that most of the Board agreed to serve another year. However, anyone who would like to enter governance, please let us know and we'll apprentice you to our more senior leaders. Special thanks to Joe Becker who has served as Chair of the Finance Committee for several years and is stepping down. We also welcomed Jim Fohrman as our newest Trustee and thank Janet Wicks for her years of service in many capacities, most recently as Trustee and Stewardship Team member.

Rev. Cathy is planning a New Members Orientation meeting in March and it is exciting to think we may have several interested people. Also, a confirmation class will be held for those among our youth who are interested. And it's been good to see several young people joining Cathy in the Young At Heart sessions during service. Church is growing and church is fun. Special thanks is also extended to those who came to help put Christmas away for another year. Many hands do make light work. And thanks to Ellen for the carb-loaded donuts to help us recover from the work, plus special thanks to the men who wrestled the Christmas Tree down and stowed it.

I will be gone the month of February, exploring Australia and meeting newly discovered family in New Zealand (on my father's side of the tree). The Board will continue to work on constitutional revisions and I know many of you will step up to help out during my absence. You are indeed my Northwest Family. Blessings to all and Go Hawks!

## GOVERNANCE CLUSTER FINANCE GROUP

Submitted by Don Thompson



**Ways to contribute to UCUP when you shop. All of these Merchants will donate a portion of what you spend to a charity of your choice including UCUP, without costing you more.**

### Fred Meyer

Go to [www.fredmeyer.com](http://www.fredmeyer.com) and click on rewards. If you already have a Fred Meyer rewards card follow the directions to link your rewards card to United Church in University Place. Or sign up for a rewards card and link it to UCUP.

### Amazon

Amazon will donate 0.5% of what you buy on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) by signing up for [amazonsmile](http://amazonsmile.com). Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to sign up, and designate United Church in University Place as your choice to donate to.

### Escript.com

On this website you can sign up to donate to United Church in University Place when you shop at Bartell Drugs, Safeway (when you don't use a credit card), and other online purchases like Macy's, Nordstrom, Lands End and many other merchants.



## ***FAITH & SPIRITUAL GROWTH CLUSTER***

Submitted by Ellen Davis

### **2015 New Year's Resolution**

The Faith and Spiritual Growth Cluster is excited to reach one of its 2015 goal of 'growing some' Sunday School teachers, assistants and rovers to support the UCUP Children's Ministry!

Whether you think you can help for one Sunday or for a month, for a few minutes "as a Rover" or as a teacher, we invite you to attend a brief 30 minute informational meeting on Sunday March 1, 2015 at 11:30 in the Orchard Room.

We will share how to observe, be an assistant, teach or just "rove" using our Safe Church Policy. First 50 attendees get lollipops!

### **Lenten Soup Suppers**

Everyone is invited to share a soup meal and stay for the 2015 Lenten series, each Wednesday in LENT beginning February 25th, including March 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come to one, or all 5!



A Soup Supper Signup Sheet will be available in the narthex starting Feb 1st. There is room for two volunteers each Wednesday: one, for any kind of soup/stew and one, for a vegetarian soup or stew. See sign up clip board for details. Other participants are encouraged to bring finger foods, such as cheese and crackers or veggies or cookies (any item that goes good with soup) to pass around.

Questions? Call 566-0944.

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### **UCUP AT THE PANTRY**

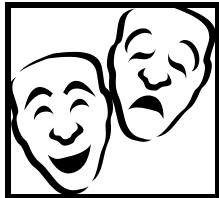
Submitted by Pat Mail

Ten faithful volunteers from United Church showed up at My Sister's Pantry to pack food, do dishes, hand out desserts, pour coffee and water, and do whatever else needed doing. Two or three times a year UCUP gets asked to help at the pantry and we respond. This time, several volunteers from the Milgard Breast Center were also volunteering.

Many hands do make lighter work. While only 81 people came through on Saturday, there is always work to do. Helping out were Sharon Britcher, Jim Cash, Joyce Demarest, Renee and Cierra Gillard, Lou and Margie Lehmann, Pat Mail and Meredith Sage. Our faithful coordinator for several years who also helped out is Ruth Cannon. Carrying coffee for one man who ran out of hands to balance his soup, dessert and coffee, it was overheard that "this place was the nicest place to come." We're glad we can make the Pantry guests feel comfortable. Oh, and one lady came with a small dog, so dog food is needed as well as people food (not to take away from Posada Safe Haven which we also support).

Many thanks and blessings to each and all of you for your service.





## JOYS AND CONCERNS

January and February are the months when we start the plans for our church's year of upcoming programs. The first large gathering was the Annual Charge Conference meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Our committee was happy to serve lunch to 50 plus people who attended.

One of the first joys of 2015 has been to donate money for one of the spring hanging flower baskets as part of the Beautification of University Place. This Board approved donation was taken from a memorial fund honoring Shirley Charette.

Another joy is the Seven-Up Dinner Groups. The C.C.C. has placed a sign-up sheet on the church entry table. These groups will meet February through June. Stay tuned for further info!

Our young people have been bringing joy as well. Seeing a sibling pair lighting the altar candles, (Morgan & Raven Beesley) and our children offering opinions during Time for the Young at Heart.

There are concerns--some of our members and friends are dealing with chronic physical challenges, some with arthritis and other conditions. Shirley Paulson has been dealing with back problems, pain and learning to use a walker. Allen Munn has had a recent fall, and Janet Wicks' ongoing condition. And we hold Marilyn Thompson in our prayers following the death of her father on January 25th.

Thank you to our January Fellowship Hosts.

Our prayers and concerns continue for physical, mental and spiritual healing for all.

Sharon Britcher  
Congregational Care Cluster (C.C.C.)

*Life we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us so be quick to love make haste to be kind*

*Henri Amiel 1868 M.S. Dubay*

The Benediction Dr. Marcus Borg frequently used to close his sessions.

## *A Look Ahead*

**Family Housing Network —January 31st—February 7th**

**Pancake Feast—Sunday, February 15th following worship—a Mardi Gras celebration**



*Ash Wednesday* **Ash Wednesday Service—February 18th at 7pm**

**FAITH ACTION NETWORK**  
A Partnership for the Common Good

**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.

**Faith & Spiritual Growth Cluster—Sunday March 1, 2015 at 11:30 in the Orchard Room**

An informational gathering to enlighten you on the task of being a Sunday School Teacher or Assistant. Please join us and learn more about this valuable service.

**Lenten Study - Video discussions from the theological work of Marcus Borg**

**Wednesdays - February 25th - March 25th; soup supper at 6; discussion ~ 6:45 pm**

If someone asked me what contemporary theologian has had the most impact on my faith journey, I would tell you, without a doubt, Dr. Marcus Borg. I was saddened to hear this week that he died on January 21st at the age of 72 (far too young).

To honor his life and his life's work, we will be exploring a few of his videos during our Lenten journey. Each week we will receive a teaching from Marcus Borg, followed by lively discussion.

I first heard Marcus Borg speak in 1996 at University Temple in Seattle. I was almost 30 years old and beginning to question whether Jesus was the only path to God as I had been taught in church. During the question/answer session, someone asked the question I would never dare utter; "Do you think Jesus was the only Son of God?" The room grew eerily quiet as Marcus Borg contemplated the question. My heart almost stopped, and I gripped the pew in front of me. While not directly answering the question, Marcus Borg calmly stated, "I believe that Jesus exhibited the most transformational relationship with God, of any human being throughout history." Marcus Borg gave me language to articulate my growing and changing understanding of faith. He defined spirituality as an internal process of becoming conscious of and being intentional about a deepening relationship with God.

Join in the faith community at UCUP as we deepen our relationship with God and each other.

Submitted by Pastor Cathy

**February 2015**



<b>3 Gunneld Willits</b>
<b>8 Neva Laurie-Berry</b>
<b>12 Chris Cadle</b>
<b>16 Dorothy McCuistion</b>
<b>Adelaide Thompson</b>
<b>21 Soren Fohrman-8 yrs</b>
<b>23 Ardie Herbel</b>
<b>29 Win Bjarke</b>

Sat

Fri

Thu

Tue

Mon

2015 Sun

February

1	2	3 10am Cong Care Mtg. Noon P&J Mtg. 1pm Alz Grp	4 Noon Brown Baggers 6-7:30pm Blue Heron	5 6:30pm Finance mtg 7:15 Choir	6	7 Family Hous- ing Departs
8	9	10	11 Noon Brn Baggers 5pm FSG 6pm-7:30 Blue Heron Zen Group	12 7:15pm Choir	13	14 Valentines Day
15	16	17	18 Noon Brown Baggers 7pm Ash Wed Service	19 5:30pm Mu- sic Planning 7:15pm Choir	20 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night	21
22	23	24	25 Noon Brn Baggers 5pm FSG 6pm Soup Suppers	26 7:15pm Choir	27	28

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

## Newsletter

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February 1, 2015

### United Church In University Place

3912 Grandview Dr W  
University Place, WA  
98466



# WELCOME

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

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## Weekly

### Sundays

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

### Wednesdays

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

6-7:30pm 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

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ABOVE ADDRESS

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