

United in Love



# UNITED CHURCH

## IN UNIVERSITY PLACE

### NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1, 2015

United to Serve

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

#### **"It Takes A Village"**

The traditional African saying that "it takes a village" is certainly true at UCUP! It took a village of volunteers to help for one week with one of the largest Family Housing Network groups we've hosted.



We cannot thank you enough for your kindness and generosity with all the families, from meals and snacks to laundry, overnight stays and family companionship. Each of the families expressed gratitude, and described UCUP as the warmest, friendliest church that has hosted them.

With gratitude,  
Ardie Herbel & Kathleen Kenna



Our first annual **Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Pancake Feast** was such fun. Many thanks to Wes & Ellen Davis for set-up and decorations, Chuck Schilling — pancake flipper extraordinaire; Leslie Merta - meat & fruit queen; and Robert Brown - sous chef. More than 40 people joined in to eat pancakes, participate in the great pancake flipping relay, make Alleluia banners, and burn the palms to make our ashes for Ash Wednesday.



**Daylight Savings Time Reminder  
Sunday March 8th—Set clocks ahead one hour**



## *Cathy's Reflection*



In Lent, we are called to begin a holy journey, to go out into the wilderness, to meditate and reflect, to recognize and reject the temptations of life. We are invited into a time of self-examination, to the deeper, interior places of our being during this journey. One of the ways we are symbolizing our journey with Jesus is by building cairns right in the middle of our sacred space in the sanctuary, along the pathway to the altar and the cross. Building these cairns during Lent gives physical presence to the idea of journey - of following and making a path - reminding us that pilgrims of the faith have gone before us, and we continue to journey in faith. As we continue our Lenten journey, you are invited to write prayers and intentions to tuck into the rocks, and to bring rocks to add to our cairns, or start a new one.

Don Thompson has blessed our worship space with photos symbolizing journey and being on the path. Thank you Don.

In the midst of your wilderness reflections, God calls to us through the Prophet Joel 2, "Return to me with your whole heart." What represents your whole heart? Who is the you that is being invited to emerge? What would be helpful to let go of as you embark on this journey? What would be a helpful spiritual practice to introduce in these 40 days of Lent to help you return to God?

One of my spiritual practices of self-examination during this Lenten journey is to enter into a process called Soul Collage. If you're curious, ask me about it, and how it's going. In fact, engage with each other about what spiritual practices you are entering, and aspects of your life (attitudes, objects, foods) you are letting go of/giving up. After confessing my, hem, addiction to Spider Solitaire in worship last Sunday, I'm thinking it's worthy of "giving it up" for Lent.

We are blessed to be on this sacred journey with one another. May you feel led by the Spirit to enter this journey with courage and strength.

*There is a road that runs straight through your heart.*

*Walk on it.*

*To be a pilgrim means*

*To be on the move, slowly*

*To notice your luggage becoming lighter*

*To be seeking for treasures that do not rust*

*To be comfortable with your heart's questions*

*To be moving toward the holy ground of home*

*With empty hands and bare feet.*

*And yet, you cannot reach that home*

*Until you've loved the pilgrim in your heart.*

*One must be comfortable with pilgrimage*

*Before one's feet can touch the homeland*

*Do you want to go home?*

*There's a road that runs straight through your heart.*

*Walk on it.*

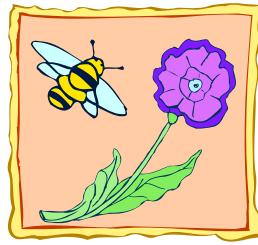
*~Macrina Wiederkehr*





## PEACE & JUSTICE CLUSTER

### The Greening Group



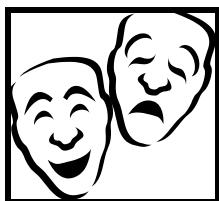
#### The Greening Group is buzzing to give you some updates-

Our rain barrel at the front entryway will be providing run off water for our churches indoor and outdoor plants this spring and summer.

Starfish (Sea Star) news— Although we have not had an official report since November, news via the internet shows the Seastars along our coast are for the most part, healthy. The Wasting Disease has, however, moved north to the state of Alaska. Scientists now feel, after a period of study and tests, this disease could definitely be caused by a virus.

Look for a story of a scientist/naturalist, Lauren Eisley – “The Cross and the Star Thrower.” It will be posted under Peace and Justice on our entry bulletin board.

Sharon Britcher  
The Greening Group



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Submitted by Kathryn Munn

Who knew a pancake flipping race would be such fun! Go Anwen! Actually, the whole Shrove Tuesday Party (on Sunday) was great fun! Thanks pancake chefs!

It's such a joy to have Betty and Harry Garrison back with us! And Shirley Paulson and Betty Smith who are feeling better again.

I know one group who is already looking forward to their next 7-up dinner--the first one was a great success!

We're thinking especially of Patty Jo McGill with on going breathing problems and Norma Rader who is coping with extensive dental work. We hold the Aaron Young family close in our hearts as they face changes.

Our prayers are especially with Marilyn and Don Thompson in the loss of Marilyn's father; with Kristy Haner who has lost her father and Win Bjarke who will miss her older brother

**March 2015**



<b>5</b>	Elinore Devine
<b>9</b>	Candy Jacobson
<b>11</b>	Roger Martin
<b>26</b>	Fallon Bellotti
<b>27</b>	Larry Baker
	Cristy Haner
	Paul Koppe
<b>29</b>	Cecelia Schilling

## FAITH ACTION NETWORK: Interfaith Advocacy Day Reflections

Interfaith Advocacy Day began with welcome and interfaith worship led by leaders from Christian, Zen, Unitarian, and Islam communities. We then met with others from our legislative districts. UCUP members had members from the 27th, 28th, and 29th districts.

We then attended workshops on topics advocated by FAN. I attended workshops on Wealth Inequality and environment. These were meant to help us focus our attention as we met with our representatives and senators to discuss items on the agendas of the two bodies.

Following lunch, we descended on our representatives, well prepared to discuss what was and what wasn't happening in the state government. I felt that I had the opportunity thank my representatives for the work I agreed with, and to let them know when I did not agree with their positions.

Those in government cannot represent us if they do not know our priorities.

~Neil Rader

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Attending the Faith Action Network's Advocacy Day makes it possible for us to observe and engage in the work of legislating on the state level. The day begins with a measure of the information needed to approach the legislators from your district and ask them what their views are on key issues that people of faith have agreed to target. It is exciting to meet in their offices, to walk through the halls, and yes, to climb up and down the marble steps of our capital building.

Each year I have also attended a hearing or committee in session which gives another intimate look at how things in Olympia get done. Now that I have done this twice I think I know how to better prepare for this day and hope to get many more of you to come along next year.

A few of the questions that were answered were: Dick Muri supported the "Breakfast after the Bell" bill which passed out of committee and would provide breakfast for those students who arrive late to school or need to eat later in the morning. He supports increasing the gas tax for transportation funds but does not support the governor's proposal for a carbon tax as a source of new revenue. Steve O'Ban is on the Mental Health and Housing Committee and sponsored 'Joel's Law' which provides a way for parents to have input in decisions about placements of mentally ill family members; previously only made by professionals not familiar with the persons. He also sponsored a bill eliminating much of the Legal Financial Obligations ("LFO's") for juveniles, leaving only the debt for the victim's fund, so that incarcerated youth do not have to start fresh burdened by debt. Both of those bills passed out of committee. Neither of these legislators supported new revenue sources and though an income tax was broached by attendees, the word is that since the voters did not support it last year (2 yrs ago?), it won't be up for consideration again for a few years.

~Linda Vanderbilt

## FAITH ACTION NETWORK: Interfaith Advocacy Day Reflections (Cont)



On Thursday, February 19, 2015, United Church in University Place was well represented at Faith Action Network Lobby Day. Pastor Cathy Law, Linda Vanderbilt, Neil Rader, and Robert Brown were there. The four of us represented the 27th, the 28th, and the 29th legislative districts.

I, Robert Brown, represented the 28th with six other people from other churches and colleges. In the morning, the lobbyists met for prayers and stories from faith leaders, then we met with people from our districts, and then we chose to attend two presentations from among five choices. I listened in on a state budget presentation and then went to hear about wage theft and minimum wage issues. Among the things I learned were that in the Senate there is resistance to raising more revenue because they believe the revenue increase is enough. We are getting more revenue, and by a generous 3 billion dollars; however, the new amount leaves us behind the biennium 2007-2008 still. Because of the need to fund education, we need to raise two million dollars above the three billion that is coming in. During the presentation on minimum wage and wage theft, I learned that our tax code results in the fact that the bottom 20% of wage earners in Washington spend 17% of their income on taxes, while the top two percent manage to pay only 2% of their income.

In the afternoon, we spoke with our legislators. Since the 28th district had two simultaneous meetings, we divided the task. Therefore, I met with Representative Dick Muri's aide (Dick was meeting in committee), while others met with Christine Kilduff's aide. We all met with Senator Steve O'Ban in his office. The take away was that we found issues of agreement and disagreement, but we raised the issues that FAN was most interested in discussing.

It seemed to me to be a very productive day. If you would like to learn more from me, please ask. I'm sure the others would share their experiences as well.

Sincerely,  
Robert Brown

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



### One Great Hour of Sharing

Every year on the fourth Sunday of Lent, we take an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. It is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time.

Since 1950, the purpose of One Great Hour of Sharing has remained the same: to collect special gifts to assist those in need. Our offering on March 15th will be divided equally between the United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ.

## ***A Look Ahead***

### **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.

### **Reconciling Ministries Gathering for a more inclusive church**

**March 21, 2015** is the date for the Pacific Northwest Annual Gathering. Our theme this year is Biblical Obedience and Inclusion.

It is a privilege to welcome one of our former Bishop as a keynote speaker. Bishop Melvin Talbert will join Dr. Jennifer Bird to address the gathering.

The planning team is excited about the six workshops: Transgender 101; What to do When Your Child Comes Out; Living Your Welcome; Sexuality: What we Don't Talk About; Stepping Up as an Ally; Queer Issues in the 21st Century.

Registration is online and can be found at [pnwrmn.org](http://pnwrmn.org). Individual registration is \$50. There is a discount for groups of 5 or more from a church. It would be great to get at least 5 folks from UCUP to attend. Mark your calendars and plan on attending. We'll see you there.

### **Lenten Study - Video Series from Living the Questions: Saving Jesus**

Wednesday nights - **February 25th - March 25th**; Soup Supper at 6 p.m.; Study at 6:45 p.m. Join us for a video series focusing on the theology of recently departed Dr. Marcus Borg, among many other presenters (including Diana Butler Bass, Amy Jill Levine, Walter Brueggeman, UMC Bishop Minerva Carcano and others). We will watch 5 of the 12 sessions in the series, and then enter into theological discussion with one another.

*Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right and discarded by the Secular Left? Living the Questions: Saving Jesus poses that provocative question and then invites us to consider finding our place in the theological conversation. This program is provocative, sometimes challenging, and meant to invite questions, conversation, and personal reflection.*

- 1 Intro: Jesus Through the Ages
- 2 Who was Jesus?
- 3 What Can We Know About Jesus (and How)?
- 4 The World into Which Jesus Was Born
- 5 Jesus' Birth: Incarnation
- 6 Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition
- 7 Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God
- 8 Jesus' Ministry of Compassion
- 9 Who Killed Jesus?
- 10 The Atonement
- 11 The Resurrection of Christ
- 12 Why Jesus Is Worth Saving

If you are curious about the what the other sessions include, join us for Brown Baggers on Wednesdays from 12-2 p.m. (starting March 4th)

Join in the faith community at UCUP as we deepen our relationship with God and each other.....And stay tuned in future bulletins for Holy Week & Easter services.

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1 2nd Sunday of Lent 11:30-Growing Sunday School Teaches/Helper	2 5pm SPR Mtg 	3 10am Cong Care Mtg. 1pm Alz Grp	4 Noon Brown Baggers 6pm Soup Supper	5 7:15 Choir	6 World Day of Prayer	7
8 3rd Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings	9 6:30pm Board Mtg. 	10 Noon P&J Mtg.	11 Noon Brown Baggers 6pm Soup Supper	12 6:30pm Finance mtg 7:15pm Choir		14
15 4th Sunday of Lent New Member Class	16	17	18 Noon Brown Baggers 5pm FSG 6pm Soup Supper	19 5:30pm Music Planning 7:15pm Choir	20 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night 1st Day of Spring	
22 5th Sunday of Lent Sunday Forum New Members Join	23	24	25 Noon Brown Baggers 6pm Soup Suppers	26 7:15pm Choir	27	28
29 Palm Sunday	30	31				

\* 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. 33, No. 3

March 1, 2015

### United Church In University Place

3912 Grandview Dr W  
University Place, WA  
98466



## Weekly

### Sundays

10am Worship Service  
With Pastor Cathy  
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

WELCOME here.

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

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