

August 2015

United Church in University Place Newsletter

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

A United Church of Christ, a United Methodist Church &
an LGBTQIA welcoming Congregation

Blessing of the Animals

Join us on August 16th at 10am in the Curran Apple Orchard for our annual Blessing of the Animals worship service. All animals are welcome! Or if that is not possible, please bring a photo of your current or heavenly pet to be blessed.



CAMP "LITE" NITE!

ALL CHURCH, ALL AGES
Evening of Fellowship!
the things we LOVE about Summer Camp
Ice Cream Sundaes, Crafts
Camp songs and guitars
Save **Wed. August 26th from 7-8:30 pm**
Its free and hosted by
FSG, Greening Committee, and PB Jam.
(BYOM: Bring your own mosquitoes!)



Don't forget to bring **School Supplies**
to donate to Family Housing
Network.
The deadline is August 9th.



HEAR OUR SERVICE

At their July meeting, the UCUP Board approved the purchase and installation of a hearing loop system. This hearing enhancement works by electro-magnetic waves that activate a T-coil in hearing aides, enabling people to better access our services. It also comes with small units that pick up the sound and feed them to headphones if your hearing aide does not have a T-coil.

The Board approved installation in the sanctuary, the altar area and the choir loft. At this time, wiring the fellowship area is not practical, as we would have to cut the carpet. Installation will require the help of 3-4 church members, which will help keep our costs down. Never-the-less, the system will cost UCUP \$8,739.20.

Individuals interested in helping us defray costs may contribute to the Hearing Loop Fund. Our only regret is that we were not able to do this for Clint and Nels, but we hope it will help others in our church family. The installation is made possible by recent bequests to the church.



Update:

At this time we have received hearing
loop donations in the amount of
\$7,040.00
from anonymous church members!

WOW....And THANK YOU!

That leaves only \$1699.20 to pay for the
entire system!

Pastor Cathy's Reflection



In September, I will be starting a 6-8 week sermon series on Spiritual Practices based on Barbara Brown Taylor's book entitled *An Altar in the World*. From the book jacket, the book is introduced in this way: *From simple practices such as walking, working, and getting lost to deep meditations on topics like prayer and pronouncing blessings, the book reveals concrete ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see. Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of devotion if we pay attention to the sights, smells, and sounds around us. Making eye contact with the cashier at the grocery store becomes a moment of true human connection.*

The first Sunday in September is Labor Day weekend, and we will begin the sermon series with "*The Practice of Carrying Water*" - the ways in which we labor in the world. During that service, I invite all of us to bring an object to church that day that symbolizes our work, our labor, our passion in the world to which we choose to give our time, our energy, and our prayers to. During our worship service, those objects will be blessed and consecrated.

Employment is so intrinsic to our lives that one of the first questions we ask a stranger is: What do you do? It's an easy question to break the ice, but it is also a loaded one. Unconsciously or not, many people make a judgment on what a person **does** for economic employment. Perhaps a better question is "What is your life's work?" The meaning here is a spiritual question. There can be a difference between a job which pays the bills and our life's work. And it is also true, that any task, however menial, we can find the presence of God within it.

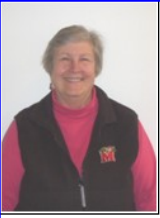
Brother Lawrence, a contemplative monk in the 17th century wrote a small book entitled, "*Practicing the Presence of God*." In it he asserts that God can be found in all things, even in such menial tasks as washing the dishes. Perhaps this is at the heart of discovering meaningful work in all that we are doing. This is our true vocation: practicing the presence of God where ever we find ourselves, AND listening deeply to where God calls each of us. Biblically speaking, work is to be a vocation, a calling. The Latin word, *vocare*, means, the work a person is called to by God.

So over the next month, prayerfully consider what symbolizes your work and labor and passion in the world, and bring that object to church on September 6th to be blessed and consecrated.



Homecoming Sunday—September 13th

Join us for in worship for Homecoming Sunday where we will welcome our choir back after the summer break, have a Back to School Blessing for those starting a new school year, have a blessing for our dedicated Sunday School teachers and assistants, launch our new small groups for the fall, and join in a shared meal and potluck after worship.



Prez Perspectives

On hot, summery days, church attendance usually falls off -- a lot. But our faithful family just keeps on coming. We saw a small dip, but in general, we have had to make extra bulletins as people keep walking through the door. And I apologize to those of you who got bulletins printed upside down, but I haven't quite mastered two-sided printing. We've had really fun, celebratory worship services and some services that were a bit more serious, but we know there are many ways to worship. God doesn't deny us laughter and humor in our lives. And we don't mind dancing, being token oxen, or feigning death from touching the Arc. And our guitarists are thinking up new songs of praise.

Keep those in prayer who cannot be with us, and travel mercies for all on the roads or in the air, coming or going. We celebrated Cecelia's growing up in our church, and send her east to college with love and care. Our newer members are stepping forward and getting involved, and we welcome all to join in Brown Baggers Luncheon and Bible Study Group (Wednesday noons), ushering, bringing food for Fellowship Time, volunteering as a Sunday school teacher, bringing altar flowers, or many of the other small tasks that support and serve our church family. This Fall, we will see some small groups established to help us get to know one another better. Keep an eye out for information about these evening covenant times.

Most of all, continue to greet, support and love one another. Live the love Jesus preached on a daily basis. And get ready for our Blessing of the Animals on August 16th, because God loves ALL his creatures. If you can't bring a live animal, bring pictures of current or past loved ones, and join in celebration in the Curran Orchard.

Blessings,
Pat



CONGREGATIONAL CARE CLUSTER

Submitted by Joyce Demarest

FELLOWSHIP TIME



Anwen Young was turning 8 on July 12th and her dad (Aaron) wanted to sharing the celebration of the day with their church family. After talking with a member of the Care & Concerns Committee he was assured that they would be happy to make the coffee and do the serving for the happy event. The cake and ice cream were delicious and the smile on Anwen's face when we sang Happy Birthday to her was a brightened the day for all that saw it.

If you'd like to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or maybe like Nancy Moffett, the memory of her father with the serving of his favorite pie, just sign up for Fellowship Time. You'll find the sign-up sheet on the round table. If you have questions or would like help, talk with one of the members: Deb Howard, Chair; Carol Shogreen, Shirley Paulson, Kathy Munn, Ardie Herbel and Joyce Demarest.



FAITH AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH CLUSTER

Submitted by Pastor Cathy



Small Groups Starting in September

Are you new(er) to the church and want to get to know people better? Consider joining a small group. Have you been in the church for years, but want to get to know people at a deeper level? Consider joining a small group? Have you have been wanting to experience deeper growth in your spiritual life? Consider joining a small group. Are you curious about spiritual practices and how they might fit into your life? Consider joining a small group. Do you desire a sense of belonging, connection and community? Consider joining a small group.

Relational connections make up the heart of the church. You can't talk to ALL 60 people in worship each Sunday. But you can get to know a few people on a more intimate level.

This fall there will be two new groups starting up (one on Wednesday evening and one on Thursday evening, hosted in people's homes) and meeting twice a month between September - January. One group will be facilitated by Tanya Sorenson and the other by Angie Wolle. The groups will be exploring different Christian Spiritual Practices and Traditions. There will be time for conversation, for deeper, sharing, and praying for one another.

More information will be coming out in the next month, so prayerfully consider signing up to be part of a small group being launched in September.



PEACE AND JUSTICE CLUSTER

Submitted by Dorothy McCuiston



The Peace and Justice group has been taking the summer off from meetings. We are currently collecting school supplies for Family Housing Network children. The emphasis this year is on teenagers. Look for school supply sales and bring in a bag or two of supplies or even better, a new backpack. School supplies can add up to \$50-100 per child, so these supplies are a great help to families living on the edge financially. If you have questions, contact Joan Walston.

If you are interested in joining the Peace and Justice group, we always welcome new members and their energy and ideas. We usually meet monthly except for the summer. Our work includes designating the church's benevolence giving, collecting food and clothing for My Sister's Pantry, organizing a team for the Hunger Walk, overseeing the coordination of the Family Housing Network hosting, collecting donations for the alternative gift fair during advent and many other worthwhile activities that extend the reach of UCUP to the world beyond our doors.

Contact any of the current members: Ruth Cannon, Linda Vanderbilt, Joan Walston, Ardie Herbel, Marilyn Thompson, Judy Theirry, Dorothy McCuiston or Pastor Cathy.



PEACE AND JUSTICE CLUSTER (continued)

Submitted by Ardie herbel

For a number of years, our church has participated in a mission of housing families from Family Housing Network, formerly known as Phoenix Housing Network. We do this twice a year, for a week each time. We provide these families a place to sleep, an evening meal, a light breakfast if they want it, and overnight hosting. We also give them a friendly connection with the volunteers who work during this time.

This is a wonderful mission and requires many helping hands. This congregation has always stepped up and provided that help. We will need that help again the week of September 26 - October 2. Be watching for sign-up sheets soon.

Joy McDonald from Family Housing Network will be presenting a forum for those who would like to learn more about this wonderful program. She will worship with us on August 23rd and present the forum after worship at 11:30am in the Orchard Room.



ISCELLANEOUS

Special thanks to Wes Davis and John McCuiston for installing the new window shade in the sanctuary. This room darkening shade will prevent UV rays from fading the silk green season banners so that we can enjoy them for many years to come.



Tacoma Pride Festival

UCUP volunteers provided hospitality by offering water and information to those attending Tacoma Pride July 11th. Thanks to Rev. Ann Adkinson and Tacoma 1st UMC for inviting us to take part in their booth, and to Becca Brazell, Jane Brazell, Pat Mail, Chris Walters & Pastor Cathy for representing UCUP.



A Look Ahead

August 8th—Clean up at The Bridge UMC from 8am to 5pm

The Bridge (formerly known as Asbury) is in need of some serious clean up. One of our sister churches in Tacoma is in need of lots of TLC. If you can clean, organize, schlep, paint, and have a good time laughing while at it, then come on over and spend an hour or two or three. Location at 56th & South Tacoma Way.

August 9th—Final Day to Donate School Supplies for the Family Housing Network

August 16—10am Blessing of the Animals

Worship Service in the Curran Apple Orchard. All animals are welcome!

August 23—4th Sunday Forum

Joy McDonald from Family Housing Network will be presenting a forum on August 23 for those who would like to learn more about this wonderful program. It will be after worship in the Orchard Room at 11:30 am.

August 26—Our 2nd Annual Camp Life Nite from 7-8:30 pm

ALL CHURCH, ALL AGES. Evening of Fellowship! The things we LOVE about Summer Camp: Ice Cream Sundaes, Crafts, Camp songs and guitars. Its free and hosted by FSG, Greening Committee, and PB & Jam.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Submitted by Sharon Britcher

When we think of July and August, we think of picnic suppers, ice cream socials, camping, and , campfires--(getting rained out). This year our church family is praying for rain for our earth and crops.



Speaking of camp, Jane Brazell is working as a camp staff member, at a summer camp for young military children. Exciting!

We've had two lovely celebrations in July. Anwen Young's 8th Birthday celebration with cake and ice cream and a Thank you celebration for Cecelia Schilling for being a nursery teacher and to wish her a good start in college life.

Three of our church family members had surgery. Norma Rader had major oral surgery and Jim Simpson had shoulder surgery and Lou Lehman who also had an extensive hospital stay.

On Sunday, July 26, we had an old-time celebration that brought joy and memories. An old fashioned hymn sing followed by fellowship time--an ice cream social.! Thanks to Rosemary and Kris and the Kearley-Cadle family for turning the cranks! And many thanks to Pat who supplies sandwiches.



Looking forward to August: join us if you are able. August 16 will be our annual Blessing of the Animals in the Curran Apple Orchard. On August 26th, come help us celebrate Camp Lite Nite--campfire and all. It will be lots of FUN!

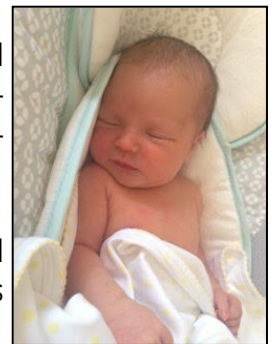
HAPPY BIRTHDAY August 2015

- 8 JoAn Walston
Meredith Young - 13yrs
- 10 Cathy Dimmerman
Cathi Kline
- 24 Sylvia Durkee
Lou Lehmann
- 25 Pat Rudolph
- 27 Renee Espriu
- 29 Pamela Maddess
- 31 Chris Bjarke
Jeff Slaker



We also celebrated a new birth--Robert and Kathi Hiyane-Brown have a new baby granddaughter born early in July. The Brown Family is in England celebrating her arrival.

Prayers for our church families and extended family in transition--foster care, separations and legal proceedings.



Prayers of protection and sustaining hope for our men and women in uniform. At our hymn sing we sang a hymn that could speak of their lives: *"This is my song...God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is...but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes as true and high as mine."* As they serve in far lands or here at home, let us keep them and their families in our hearts.

Pacific Northwest UMC Annual Conference

Submitted by Jane Brazell

June 24 through the 28 found the Tri-Cities welcoming the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. On Wednesday we descended and began proceedings with both the lay and clergy sessions. The laity session focused on the Social Principles in the Book of Discipline. Each lay member was given a copy of these principles. We discussed how these principles are to be used for guiding our behavior as Methodists. If you'd like to borrow this little book and read or study it for yourselves, please let me know.



Thursday morning we assembled in the TRAC Center for our opening worship. The theme this year was Restoring the Sacred Circle; our focus was on the harm that was done to the Native American tribes through the Methodists who came to this area. Worship leaders brought us stories of the people who were here and how their lives were impacted by the white people settling the area. We learned that white privileges continue to keep us from living out a repentance for these acts, and our churches were encouraged to continue learning about the native people in our area and how we can truly repent of the actions taken by our ancestors and often continued through our institutions.

As usual, there was a great deal of legislative work to be done. Annual Conferences allow the UMC to build the structure that will allow the work of the church to be done with unity and connection. One piece of legislation that carried on the call to repentance for the PNWUMC was "Declaration on Ethics and Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty." This document, written by indigenous and religious leaders, would promote stewardship and justice in modernizing the treaty that governs the use of the Columbia River; this can be done in 2024 with the United States, Canada, Columbia Basin tribes, and the First Nations tribes. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to right the wrongs done so long ago. This piece of legislation passed. You can find all the legislation and the decisions at <http://www.pnwumc.org/news/legislative-summary-from-the-pnwac-sessions-2015>

Joan Holms, our Annual Conference Lay Member, spoke to the assembly. Her address this year spoke of the shootings at Emmanuel AME in Charleston, SC. Joan reminded us that incidents such as this shooting reveal that we do not live according to the Social Principles and that we need to work to do that. She reminded us that our Social Principles can help us during times when we might feel overwhelmed and not know what to do.

There's so much that we do in those three and a half days. It could fill an entire newsletter on its own. I am ready and willing to talk to anyone about the work we do at Annual Conference, and throughout the year in our Annual Conference.

For me, one of the most cherished things is the connectionsism that we practice. We are not alone at UCUP, we have brothers and sisters in Christ who walk with us. Together we can achieve more for the Kingdom of God.

Jane Brazell

July 26, 2015








Hymn Sing

AND



Ice Cream Social

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 	3 5pm SPR Mtg.	4 10am Cong. Care Mtg. 1pm ALZ Group	5 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	6 6:30pm Finance Mtg.	7	8 9-4 Zen Grp Retreat in Youth Wing
9 Last day to donate school supplies 	10 6:30pm Board Mtg	11	12 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	13	14 	15
16 10am Blessing of the Animals Srv.	17 	18	19 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 5pm FSG Mtg.	20	21 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night	22
23 4th Sunday Forum 30 Apple Cider Squeeze	24 31	25	26 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group Camp Lite	27	28	29 

Every Sunday – 10am Worship Service : 10:15am Children's Sunday School

First Sunday of the Month – Communion & 2:30pm Worship Service
at Rainier Rehabilitation – Join Us!

Newsletter

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AUGUST 1, 2015

United Church In University Place

3912 Grandview Dr W
University Place, WA
98466



Weekly

Sundays

10am Worship Service
With Rev. Cathy Law
10:15am Children's Sunday
School (4yrs & up)

Wednesdays

Noon-2pm Brown Baggers
Luncheon & Bible Study Group

Thursdays

7:15pm Choir Practice
(Sept—May)

**United in Love
United to Serve**

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.

2nd Saturday of the month

9am—Noon Blue Heron Zen
Meditation Community
Retreat

3rd Friday of the month

6:30pm PB & Jam
Bring your instruments!

4th Sunday of the month

11:45am 4th Sunday Forum

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

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