

September 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

Homecoming Sunday & Potluck September 13th

Join us 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; offer a blessing for our dedicated Sunday School teachers and assistants; launch our new small groups for the fall; and join in a shared potluck meal after worship.

Please bring a food item to share that day. If your last name begins with the letter A-F bring salad or side dish; G—R bring a main dish; S-Z bring a dessert. If you are able to help with set-up or with clean-up please let Pastor Cathy know.

Family Housing Network

Hosting Guests from Sept 26—Oct 2

It takes a village, Our UCUP village, to provide this mission service.

We host 4-6 Pierce County families in transition from homelessness to settled. We provide meals, overnight hosts, even wash bedding.

A signup sheet will be posted on Sept. 6th, near the Fellowship Table. Please prayerfully consider how you can serve. It takes a village!

Choir Rehearsals Resume

September 3rd

As we turn the corner into September, we welcome the choir back to lead us in worship. This is an amazingly talented group - musical and otherwise, who are looking forward to welcoming any new folks who might be interested in joining in the music-making. Rehearsals are held Thursday evening from 7:30 - 9p.m. under the direction of our widely acclaimed Music Director, Jeff Andersen.



September 13th

**Weather permitting, we hope to get
a photo of the entire congregation outside,
so wear bright colors!**

Labor Day Sunday—September 6th

We begin a sermon series focusing on spiritual practices based on Barbara Brown Taylor's book entitled *An Altar in the World*. The first spiritual practice we will look at is *The Practice of Carrying Water* - the ways in which we labor in the world. What is your work, your passion in the world? What is your life's work? What takes up your time and energy - either willingly or necessarily?

"Whoever you are, you are human. Wherever you are, you live in the world, which is just waiting for you to notice the holiness in it."

— [Barbara Brown Taylor](#) Quote

That Sunday, you are invited to bring an object to worship that symbolizes your work, your labor, your passion in the world. Those places you choose to give your time, your energy, and your prayers to.

During our worship service, those objects will be placed on the altar to be blessed and consecrated for service in the world.

Pastor Cathy's Reflection



As I mark my one year anniversary as the pastor of United Church in University Place, I do so with great joy and gratitude. I tell you, discerning and choosing to come to be in ministry with the good people at UCUP was one of the best decisions of my life. I am continually touched by your compassion and care for one another; your authentic and genuine welcome of guests in our midst each week; your willingness to go deeper in your spiritual lives; the support you offer for the various ministries of the church; and your passion and compassion for what it means to live into the Kingdom of God.

Since my arrival a year ago, our church has welcomed 17 adults and 10 children and youth who are learning about UCUP and getting involved. If all of our newer folks were to show up on any given Sunday, they would count for 40% of our average worship attendance. That is significant.

What is even more significant is that our number of kids and youth population has doubled. This is fantastic news and presents a great opportunity to help meet the spiritual needs for our youngest disciples. We now have 10 youth who will be entering into 6th-12th grade this school year, and 8 kids who will be entering Kindergarten - 5th grade. For the last several years, kids and youth have been attending Sunday School together with our highly dedicated Sunday School teachers - Win Bjarke, Ellen Davis, & Rosemary Jones. It isn't feasible to keep these two groups together, and we will be starting a youth Sunday School using a video and discussion series. We need folks who would be willing to be with and facilitate youth discussions once a month. Our youth are amazing young people and you would have an opportunity to be an important part of their faith development. Please pray about stepping in and giving it a try, even if you aren't ready to give a full commitment right now. Talk to Ellen or Pastor Cathy if you are feeling the Spirit nudging you in this direction.



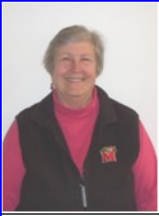
Leadership & Work Opportunities

Submitted by Pat Mail

As we get closer to the end of 2015, we turn our thoughts to identifying a new crop of people to step into leadership positions. Our church runs well, and many people volunteer to make this happen. Praise God for our servants. For 2016, we need people to serve as Trustee, and to fill Board and Committee positions. Upcoming vacancies include the following: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustee (3-year position), Communication Committee Chair, and volunteers for Worship, Education, Greening, and Family Housing Network.

Please look into your hearts to see if you would be willing to undertake one of these roles for United Church. Most committees and the Board meet monthly, but there is always ongoing work such as helping with Sunday Fellowship, flowers for the altar, and serving as Liturgist. Job descriptions are available. Please see people who are currently in leadership positions for more information.

This is a wonderful way to become more involved and to enrich our church life. Blessings.



Prez Perspectives

August was an amazing month, with a perfect day for the Blessing of the Animals. Thanks to all who toted or dragged their pets to the service, to the pastors who blessed them, and the crew with food, dog biscuits, and drink (sorry, Cats, no nibbles). Appreciation to the animal owners who kept their pets under control despite the many dogs gathered. *(Pictured right is Barbara Kearley, Lucy and her hamster)*



As this goes to press, we're trying to find a low risk way to have a small fire for Camp Lite. There is a certain irony that just after we installed the hearing loop, we moved outside where it couldn't help. But on the 23rd, we'll be back in our sound-improved sanctuary.

Keep in prayer those who are not doing well with the high temperatures we've had. Heat can be both disabling and dangerous. Continued prayers for our shut-ins and individuals fighting illness. Prayers also for job seekers, and for our children getting ready to go back to school. Where did the summer go? Congratulations are in order for Chris Walters who was named Employee of the Year by his company. We're proud of you, Chris. But don't push yourself into another nose dive into the street! Safe travels for Elizabeth who departs soon for Greece with her son Sam. We hope the Greeks appreciate tourism right now. Congratulate Hank and Judy Thierry on the recent wedding of her daughter. And know that Michael Marcoe is delighted to have another man attending Brown Baggers.

Looking ahead we have many activities coming up, from hosting the Family Housing Network, our Fall kick-off potluck marking the return of the choir and kids returning to school. Then before we can take a deep breath, pumpkin carving for Halloween and all the rich and uplifting events that go with the Christmas season. We thank God for our UCUP family and the deepening ties between and among our members and potential members.

Blessings, Pat



GOVERNANCE CLUSTER
 Staff/Parish Relations Group
 Submitted by Kris Schrantz

An Upcoming Event Requesting Congregation Participation

A form is being created asking for feedback from the congregation. The form will be available by the end of August. We ask you to sign your entry since only the Staff/Parish Relations Group (SPR) will see them. Please keep in mind the members will honor your confidentiality. No anonymous entries will be considered.

The members of SPR are: Pat Mail, Pamela Maddess, Janet Wicks, Roger Martin, Nancy Moffett and Kris Schrantz, Chair. We request the forms be turned in by Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015. The results will be available by mid-October.



FAITH AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH CLUSTER



Small Groups Starting in September

Submitted by Pastor Cathy

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 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 60-70 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 and meeting twice a month between September - January.

The first group will be facilitated by Angie Wolle & Judy Thierry at the home of Wes & Ellen Davis on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m.

The second group will be facilitated by Tanya Sorenson at the home of Kris Schrantz & Rosemary Jones from 6:30-8 p.m.

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. Prayerfully consider signing up to be part of a small group this fall.

Back to School

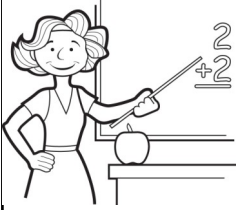
Submitted by Ellen Davis

Sunday September 13, regular Sunday school starts again!

After children's time with Pastor Cathy, children and youth are invited to walk downstairs with the teachers for Sunday school lessons which last until fellowship time. UCUP uses the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum to experience lessons from the bible in keeping with the lectionary (same verses as worship service every week). Rosemary Jones has offered to start the teaching year and a sign up is in the foyer for teachers and teaching assistants! Please consider volunteering your time to this vital role in our church life.

ADDITIONALLY, there are a booming number of youth in and out our doors once again, and Pastor Cathy and the FSG feel God's nudge to get a Youth Sunday School class in the youth wing started! This class is for rising 6th through 12 graders. It will be a video series with facilitation by adult members of the church. Ellen Davis has agreed to start this class, but we will need a committed group of adult facilitators to rotate this mission service throughout the year.

UCUP is a Safe Sanctuary, which means teachers and leaders of children agree to take extra background steps to ensure children are in safe environment at all times.



Thanks to All our Summer Sunday School Teachers!

Submitted by Ellen Davis

During the summer months, we ask congregation members to select a week and a lesson from our summer Sunday School drawer to continue to offer Sunday School to our young children. This year, it would not have been possible without Kathleen Kenna, Linda Vanderbilt, Cathy Dimmerman, Sharon Britcher, and Joe and Tanya Becker. On behalf of the congregation and the Faith and Spiritual Growth cluster, thank you for sharing your time and talents!

News from Faith Action Network

FAITH ACTION NETWORK
A Partnership for the Common Good

Submitted by Robert Brown

You might want to mark your calendars well in advance: Faith Action Network is holding its annual dinner on Sunday, November 15, 2015. This event was very well-attended last year, as 11 of our members participated. We bought a table of 10 and an extra seat. Last year, Rick Steves spoke on the topic of travel, conveying to us that Europeans, in particular, were mystified by our generous nature in America and why it didn't show itself to be true through government programs. They saw this as irony, he related to us. I cannot tell you who this year's speaker will be, but I can tell you the entire experience is quite worthwhile and can be gratifying in ways big and small. Last year's price tag was \$80/individual or \$700/table of ten. I don't know the cost this year, but I hope you will consider going.

We are also engaging in talks with legislators through small group meetings with them. We are meeting with Christine Kilduff at Starbucks in Green Firs on Thursday, September 17, at 11:00 A.M. Please let me know if you are planning to attend because we don't want to get an overwhelming crowd at this small meeting; however, I would appreciate your attendance especially if you have an issue about which you are passionate. We are also meeting with Dick Muri and have a tentative date, but we are trying to get an alternate date because the original date and time is one that has a conflict in my schedule. I will give updates of these meetings during church announcement times, at the very least. So far, we have not scheduled a time with Senator O'Ban.

If you were in church on Sunday, August 23, you had an opportunity to hear from Amber Dickson, who has worked for Faith Action Network during the past year, and you, I am sure, appreciated her message about what she has done and how it has worked in her. I am enthusiastic for her as she will commit another year to the service of children.

Should you have an interest on finding out more about Faith Action Network, look up www.fanwa.org.

Brown Baggers to Explore World Religions



Free for lunch on Wednesdays? The Brown Baggers lunch & faith exploration group just completed a summer study of "Unusual Gospels for Unusual People," a study of the Gospel of John. The next Faith Exploration, to begin on Wednesday, September 2nd at noon will focus on one of the world religions. The group will decide among Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Hinduism. We will be using the Great Courses DVD lectures and discussing each half hour lecture after we view it. WARNING: The brown baggers are somewhat progressive, not afraid to speak their minds, willing to learn from one another, and laugh a lot. We take our studies seriously, but we do have fun. Oh and there are usually two dogs guarding us while we work. Bring your lunch and an open mind.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

*Join us in the fight against hunger
in Pierce County*

5K and 10K Walk & Run



When:

12pm: Onsite Registration

1pm: Run Begins

2pm: Walk Begins

Where:

Ft. Steilacoom Park

9601 Steilacoom Blvd

Lakewood, WA

Individual Registration

Adult \$25

Youth \$15 (6 to 18 yrs)

5 yrs and under \$5

Team Registration (5 or more walkers)

Adult \$15

Youth \$10 (6 to 18 yrs)

5 yrs and under \$5

Register online at
www.associatedministries.org/events/hungerwalk2015
Online Registration closes October 1st at 5 pm

For more info contact (253) 426-1507 or michelec@associatedministries.org

Food Justice

A new partnership is with the Tacoma Inter-faith Coalition. This is a small group of local faith communities, human service agencies and universities who have come together to help people learn about social justice, and in particular, food justice.

On Sunday, September 20, 2015, we would like to have you join us for a conversation on "Just Food: realizing Accessible, Affordable and Healthy Food". Helen McGovern-Pilant, Executive Director of Emergency Food Network will be the key note speaker and there will be a panel of community members discussing civic responsibilities when it comes to food.

The event is from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Upper Marshall Hall, Wheelock Student center, University of Puget Sound. There will also be an opportunity to help fill backpacks for St. Leo's Food Connection Backpack Program. And the event is free!

UCUP Breaks Installation Records

If you are not aware of what a special place United Church is, you should have seen the Hearing Loop Installation Team! We were told the installation would take two days, but with 9 people there to work, we ripped up carpet, laid wires, put carpet back, and had the basics of the entire system done in 5 hours!

Most churches provide 2-3 people to help. Another FIRST is that UCUP had the first Pastor who helped install a system. So, it went in and was fine tuned on Joan Walston's Birthday. Happy Birthday, Joan!

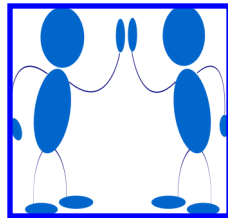
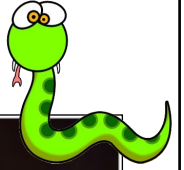
The UCUPers who helped install the system under the direction of Mr. Spencer Norby included: Robert Brown, Peter Burhop, Cathy Law, Pat Mail, Roger Martin, Jennie McQuillan, Don & Sun Morgan, and Meredith Sage. An enormous THANK YOU to all these hard working, caring, committed people!



August
6th & 7th

Hearing Loop Installation Team

And Visitor



Thank
You
Installers





JOYS AND CONCERNS

Submitted by Kathryn Munn



We haven't caught Michelle popping wheelies in the narthex, but she is really happy with her new power chair—and we are so happy for her!

Some special Dad and Daughter time is happening as Chuck Schilling helps Cecelia settle in at Goucher College and Jeff Gillard accompanies Cierra to Richmond, Virginia and Kyli to Houston, Texas to start their new jobs...and our best wishes to Jeff as he begins to enjoy his recent retirement.



Wedding Bells are in the air! We send our very best wishes to Neil and Norma Rader's granddaughter, Anna; Hank and Judy Thierry's daughter, Katie and Sue Burgoyne's daughter, Jan, on their recent marriages.

What a happy surprise to have the McQuillan family back with us! They have returned from California.

It was a real treat on a recent Sunday morning when Pastor Cathy recruited an ad hoc choir on a moment's notice! The choir almost outnumbered the remaining congregation.

We have Joys: Lou Lehmann is back with us and feeling well again.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY September 2015

2 Robert Brown
Chuck Schilling
8 Vic Bode
11 Roger King
12 Elisabeth Gregg
Judith Thierry
14 Eileen Davis
15 Jane Brazell
19 Jenny Hartley
21 Doris Larsen
Kris Schrantz
Larissa Brown Weber
22 Marilyn Thompson
25 Chris Walters
26 Betty Smith






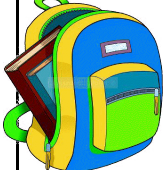


Prayers of concern: that Molly and Marty Larsen continue to heal following a serious motorcycle accident and that Emily Hartley rebounds quickly after back surgery. We hold close those who are not able to be with us in worship and fellowship on Sunday mornings.



A
spontaneous
pick-up choir
for worship
on Aug 16th

They
sounded
amazing!

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10am Cong. Care Mtg. Noon P&J Mtg 1pm ALZ Group	2 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	3 7:15pm Choir	4	5 
6 	7	8	9 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	10 6:30pm Finance Mtg 7:15pm Choir	11 	12 9-4 Zen Grp Retreat in Youth Wing
13 11:30am Homecoming Potluck Sunday School Begins	14 6:30pm Board Mtg	15	16 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 5pm FSG	17 7:15pm Choir	18 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night	19
20 Food Justice at UPS 1-4pm	21 	22	23 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	24 7:15pm Choir	25	26 Hosting Family Housing Network thru Oct. 2nd
27	28		30 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group			

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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September 1, 2015

United Church In University Place

3912 Grandview Dr W
University Place, WA
98466



Weekly

Sundays

10am Worship Service
With Rev. Cathlynn 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 Group

2nd Saturday of the month

9am—Noon Blue Heron Zen
Meditation Community
Retreat

3rd Friday of the month

6:30pm P,B & Jam Night
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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