

November 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



Welcoming Walk Into Worship

How do we say welcome? We do it best with our smiles and warm greetings, and recently we've decided to enhance those greetings with some changes to our building entrance. Our newly formed Aesthetics Group, with an enthusiastic burst of energy, is physically transforming the church entry with all things bright and beautiful.

The larger planters that have been placed on the edge of our walkway serve a dual purpose. They provide a spot for natural beauty and create a barrier to keep vehicles off the bridge.

Thanks to the leadership of our Greening Group, we now know how useful a rain barrel can be. We plan to replace the large green barrel and cement blocks with a more decorative rain collector in taupe or grey to blend with the porch colors.

We hope you are pleased with the progress so far. The narthex will be getting some brightening soon and we'll continue to organize & simplify the important hand-outs, sign ups, information and activity updates that need to be available to all.

Watch for a new and colorful display coming to the walls of the Orchard View Room, yet another artistic project, full of beauty, reminding us of all things wise and wonderful.

Back to our Future!

*Stewardship theme invites us
to envision our future at
United Church in University Place*

The flux capacitor is engaged and we're ready to travel in time to our future with United Church in University Place! What will our church, our congregation, and our programs look like in the future?

Imagine what's possible with the collective time, talents, and resources of our church members. This is the time of year when each of us is called to consider how, as stewards, we can help build an exciting future for our church. We are an Open and Affirming, Reconciling congregation that is making a difference as we serve homeless families, volunteer at My Sister's Pantry, adopt green practices, work for peace and justice, nurture our children and youth, and study, worship, sing, and pray together.

In the coming weeks you'll be asked to consider how you can help guide our church to an exciting and fulfilling future. So fasten your seatbelts, set your clocks to the future, and get ready for a fun ride!



*Mark your calendars for Thankful Sunday
November 15, 2015.*

We'll celebrate our stewardship pledges for the future with an all-church dinner following the worship service.

Pastor Cathy's Reflection

Back to our Future



It seems fitting that the day we celebrate All Saints' Day in worship happens to fall ON All Saints' Day this year - on November 1st. That doesn't happen very often. It is fitting because one of the saints of our church who passed away this year was born ON November 1st, and always joked that he must be saint because of the day he was born. By the time you read this newsletter, we will have celebrated All Saints' Day in our worship service, lighting candles and reading the names of those who have lived and died in the faith, and giving thanks for those who now reside in the nearer presence of God. Nels Bjarke happens to be one of them, and indeed was a pillar of the church, pouring countless hours of love, sweat, prayers, resources, and relational investment into this place that was his spiritual home for 45 years.

It has been said that God has given us two great lamps: the lamp of hope that lights the future and the lamp of memory that illuminates the past. A contemporary hymn writer, Jane Marshall, wrote a hymn that captures this idea in the hymn *What Gift Can We Bring*.

*Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,
Who planted and watered so dreams could come true.*

On All Saints' Day we celebrate the lives and the work of those who came before us, who carried the vision, who planted and watered the hopes of the congregation, and lived into the fullness of God's creation.

A couple of weeks ago, 27 folks from UCUP spent time together with our facilitators, Jim & Nancy Davis, to dream a vision that will keep us going into our future, as we live more fully into the realm of God. It was a good day, filled with laughter and poignant conversation about who we are and who God is calling us to be. The next verse in Jane Marshall's hymn offers words to this effect:

*Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,
For knowing whatever tomorrow may bring.
The Word is our promise always, forever;
We rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.*

We have been blessed by people who have gone ahead of us but left behind a vision and legacy that we enjoy today. And we continue to pray for God's vision that will lead us "Back to our Future".

Pastor Cathy





Prez Perspectives

We have much to give thanks for right now. The Family Housing Network families had many children, but our volunteers managed well and the families appreciated their UCUP respite, in spite of the fact that we are hard to get too. Blessings for our friends at Mt. Cross who helped us care for these families. It was a real inter-denominational collaboration. And we had a small but enthusiastic turn-out for the Hunger Walk. Next up! My Sister's Pantry, where we pack groceries, hand out food, help serve lunch, and pour coffee for the Pantry's guests. This is two-three intensive hours of labor, but no less appreciated. As you can see, there are many ways to serve those in need.

The covenant groups are up and running with participants getting to know one another better. Thanks to our host homes, we have warm, caring, congenial places to gather. The Brown Baggers, our Wednesday noon-time faith exploration, is working its way through a challenging series of lectures on Judaism. We can see the roots of many of our Christian beliefs and practices developing. Next up: Christianity, possibly followed by Islam. The lectures are from the Great Courses series of DVD's. There's always room for another chair at the table.

Coming up: our annual Stewardship drive, followed by our Giving Thanks dinner. We rejoice that we took in two new members and a clergy transfer (official after 2016 annual conference). Please let Helen Engle, Victor Bode, and Leslie Ann Knight know how glad we are to have them in our church family. And we have visitors continuing to come and "try out" UCUP. Thanks to all of you who make these people feel welcome when they enter our church.



Hanging of the Greens
Attention Christmas Elves!
Join us after worship on the first
Sunday of Advent, November 29th,
for the Hanging of the Greens. We
will prepare our sanctuary for
Advent and Christmas.

If you want to be added to the Prayer Chain, just let someone on the Congregational Care Committee know and we'll sign you up. We send out emails about requested prayers from our congregation so you can add the power of prayer to the joys and concerns raised.

Remember to consider the list of groups and committees that keep our church the welcoming home that it is.

Love and blessings to all.

Pat mail

FROM THE BOARD—SELECT A COMMITTEE FOR 2016

Much of what happens at United Church is the result of the hard work, dedication, commitment, and time provided by members of your church family. We will be seeking people to serve on our various committees in 2016, so begin thinking now where you would like to put your energy and efforts. A brief summary of these opportunities is below:

Congregational Care/Membership - meets first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM. Reviews membership to see who needs prayer; plans fellowship after services; sends birthday cards and notes to people in need of support. Hosts New Members Orientation.

Governance - Made up of the Board, Trustees, and Committee conveners or chairs. Meets monthly on the second Monday at 6:30 (date may change). Reviews financial health of church and gets updates on various activities in the coming month. *Finance Committee* is a subset of Governance. It prepares the annual budget. Review requests for funds & allocates budget to various projects. Meetings to which all are welcome.

Greening - involves UCUP in earth ministries, attends to grounds, and keeps church posted about environmental issues and projects. Plans participation in Beach Clean-up and works to make our church greener.

Faith & Spiritual Growth/Education - plans and directs Sunday School, recruits and trains teachers, and provides some youth activities such as Camp Lite. Reviews and selects curricula for children and youth.

Special Events - plans special events for the church and recruits participants to provide group meals or events. Sponsors various group gatherings.

Peace & Justice - Our church maintains a monthly giving program in which we identify selected charities or special programs to support, such as My Sister's Pantry, Oasis Youth, UMCOR and UCC special projects, and many others. Committee reviews potential projects and requests funds from the church. Also involved in getting participants for various justice activities like the annual Hunger Walk, AIDS Walk, Dine Out for AIDS, Faith Action Network dinner, etc.

Staff Parish Relations Committee - by invitation, but you may express interest. Reviews staffing, prepares annual staff budget, handles concerns from the congregation about staff, hires new staff, and does annual pastoral evaluation. Meets monthly on the first Monday of each month. Members must be able to maintain confidentiality.

Worship - working with the pastor, plans worship, especially for special church observations. Change out the paraments for each liturgical season and recruits people to work with youth who light the candles. Plans the annual Lenten Soup Suppers. Supports Greeters and Ushers for each service. Meets monthly.

Communications & Publicity - maintains our Facebook site and keeps up with the Web-page, as well as placing announcements in local papers for special services, such as the Blessing of the Animals, Celtic Xmas, etc. Meets irregularly.

Each group selects its own chair or convener. These individuals are also expected to attend Board meetings to keep us apprised of activities and upcoming events. We may have missed a group or two. If so, they will be summarized in December's newsletter. Review the committees, speak to members, and decide what you'd like to take on in 2016. Not only is this work rewarding, but you'll get to know members of the church. We'll have a sign up sheet available in December.



COMMUNICATION & PUBLICITY CLUSTER

Members & Chair Person Needed

Keeping UCUP in the 21st Century, this cluster maintains our Facebook site and keeps up with the Webpage, as well as placing announcements in local papers for special services, such as the Blessing of the Animals, Celtic Xmas, etc. Being a part of this cluster does not require computer savvy but these skills are helpful. They Meet irregularly at discretion of Chair. Please contact Pat Mail or Robert Brown if you are interested in joining this cluster.



PEACE & JUSTICE

UCUP Hunger Walkers

Thank you to everyone who donated to the UCUP Hunger Walk walkers. We raised \$1,955 for those experiencing food insecurity in Pierce County and beyond. This was the 35th year of Associated Ministries' Hunger Walk. Walking on a beautiful fall October 4th for our team were Pastor Cathy Law, Robert Brown, Pat Mail, Ruth Cannon, Cathy Cannon (Clint's daughter) and Dorothy and John McCuistion.



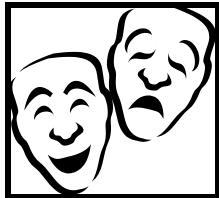
UCUP Works the Pantry

Nine eager UCUPers showed up at My Sister's Pantry to help dispense fresh produce, serve soup and sandwiches, pack food bags, and shout out numbers of grocery bags ready for pick up. Everyone enjoyed helping out, smiling at the guests, and making certain everyone had what they needed.

Special thanks to Ruth Cannon, Jim Cash, Wes Davis, Joyce Demarest, Harry Garrison, Kathleen Kenna, Pat Mail, Ron Robinson, and Carol Shogreen. And a very special thanks to Audrey Hockman, a co-worker of Kathleen's from JBLM who joined Kathleen to help out and said she really enjoyed the experience. No more Saturday pantries during the holidays, although they do need help on the first and third Mondays. Blessings to all for your hard work.

Pat Mail

A display of quilts and weavings by some talented members and their friends will be on display in the Orchard View Room beginning in November. If you don't usually get to that part of the church, take a detour to see the artwork.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

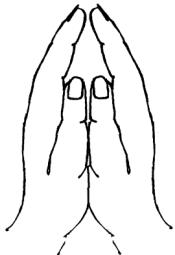
Submitted by Kathryn Munn

What a joy to wish Judith Williams a Happy 100th Birthday!! Win and all her family were in Redmond to celebrate with her...she is the eldest of the Bjarke family.

We're loving all the welcoming touches added to the entry way as we come into the church. And the welcome icebreaker was a fun way to start our day of fellowship and forward planning on a recent Saturday.

And it's always a joy to welcome someone we haven't seen recently--like Tamaya who came with Jim and Soren, and Duncan Foley on Sunday morning. And what a fun welcome to the Halloween season when we were greeted with Joan Walston's festive coffee table setting.

Thank you to the ten people from our congregation who welcomed the visitors to My Sister's Pantry last Saturday!



It was good to hear that Norma's friend Jan, who we've all enjoyed in the sacred dance group, is recovering well from recent leg surgery. We pray that Jane Brazell, who has been seriously ill, will continue to improve quickly. And we hold all those friends in prayer who aren't able to join us on Sunday mornings.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November 2015

- 4 Dawn Foreman
- Leslie Ann Knight
- 5 Joe Becker
- 7 Tanya Sorenson-Becker
- 8 Billie Jo Morgan
- 9 Rosemary Jones
- 10 Stephen McQuillan
- 11 Chris Berry
- 14 Allen Munn
- 18 Sharon Britcher
- 28 Nance Moffett
- 30 Addy Harding



Cookies & Crèches

For over 25 years it has been a tradition at United Church that one Sunday during Advent we have 'Cookies & Crèches'. Until her death last year Shirley Charette over saw this event. Care and Concerns plans to carry-on this tradition and this year it will be held on **December 13th**.

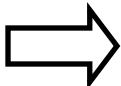


For new comers, on the Sunday of Cookies & Crèches there are loads of fancy cookies to be enjoyed during Fellowship time and crèches set up for us to view.

Any one 'out there' that has a crèche they'd like to share this year? Please see Joyce Demarest. It helps to know how many tables/places we need to display these treasures.



Welcome New Members



Victor Bode & Helen Engle



Transferring of Charge Conference



Leslie Ann Knight

Communications Workshop at Puyallup UMC

November 14th - 9am - 4pm

We are born storytellers. We tell our stories through the decisions we make, the way we spend our time and money. Everyone is a storyteller and in this digital age, everyone is also a publisher as we tell our stories through daily status updates, photos and videos of our families, friends, and yes, food. *But what about our faith?*

As God's people, we are called to communicate and we have an amazing story to tell! It is a contagious story of love and freedom for all people.

- How does a church communicate relevance in a world which moves so quickly?
- How do we, as the church, move skillfully to adopt communications tools and practices to speak through the noise?
- Should the church promote itself and how can it do so with tact and grace while reaching people it doesn't already know?

On **Saturday, November 14th**, you are invited to join us at *We Have a Story to Tell* where we'll engage a number of these questions in both inspirational and practical ways. You'll have the opportunity to listen to practitioners who have wrestled with some of these same questions as well as learning from experts who know some of the nuts and bolts of how things work.

Keynote speakers, [Ray Buckley](#) and [Rev. Bill Gibson](#) will open and close the day with a variety of workshops filling the space between.

This training is for lay people, staff, and clergy persons of various skill levels who are interested in helping their churches to more effectively tell their stories both internally and externally.

If we register as a group of two or more, the cost is \$25 including lunch. Childcare is offered for \$5 per child. Talk to Pastor Cathy if you are interested.

Visioning Retreat—October 10, 2015

Many thanks to Nancy & Jim Davis for leading 27 folks in a day long visioning retreat in October. We refined our Mission Statement to read: *We are United with God, United to Love, and United to Serve Others.*

We highlighted nine different areas for our Vision as Jim & Nancy invited us to imagine UCUP 10 years in the future. Below is the Vision Statement created by the group:

In 2025, United Church in University Place is recognized in the community as a center for faith, community gatherings and social justice. We are working with other community organizations to serve the marginalized and work toward solutions of systemic justice.

The building is a community model for a modern, green, and attractive facility easily identifiable to neighbors and visitors.

We are worshiping in a vital, Christ-centered, diverse and welcoming family. We are strengthening our Spiritual Core through small groups, adult education, and personal meditation space. Our youth have a strong sense of belonging to a community, with empathy and compassion for others as they grow in their spiritual journey. We eat, pray, love, play and sing together.

As stewards of our church we engage the passions and strength of our diverse membership to participate in and guide our organization and programs. Our communication takes place on multiple levels, reaching our diverse community.

We also looked at strategic goals for the next 14 months. They include:

1. Growth in worship and spiritual life

Creating a meditation garden and/or labyrinth, continuing small group ministry, and offering a Taize-style worship service once a quarter in the evenings.

2. Strengthen youth & children's ministry over the next year

Involving more adult volunteers, more activities and spiritual development for youth, hire part-time staff for youth/children's/family program, offer a Mission trip for youth (summer 2016).

3) Improving church structure for a stronger UCUP

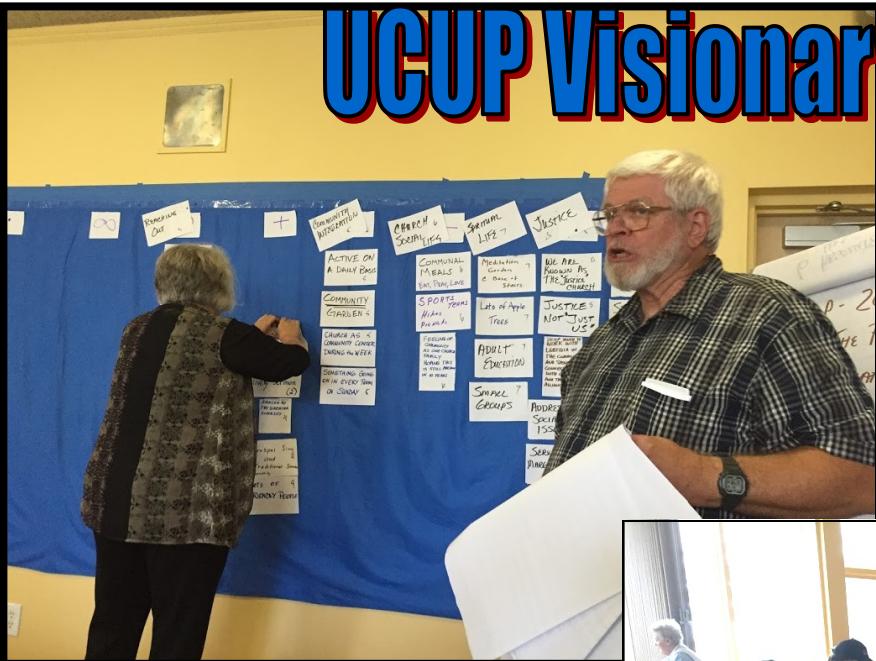
Revamp our current website that is seeker friendly and speaks to our passions; Improve visibility and attractiveness of our building; Make Handicap access even more available (i.e. automatic doors; resurfacing walkway).

3) We're building God's community Inside & Out

Plan and host quarterly community events (i.e. Pumpkin carving; Blessing of the Animals & Easter Sunrise in the Orchard; inviting guest speakers and artists; pot-lucks).

We are United with God, United to Love, and United to Serve Others.

UCUP Visionary Retreat



Our Leaders
Rev. Jim & Nancy
Davis

We are United with God,
United to Love,
and United to Serve Others



Hard at Visioning



October 10, 2015

What a Great
Turnout!



Uniting in Thanksgiving



Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering

7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Hosted by:

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
1102 South Pearl St. | Tacoma, WA 98465**

Join us as we come together in peace and community at Thanksgiving to explore, reflect and give thanks for our blessings.

For more than a quarter of a century, this annual service has brought together people of many faith traditions. The gathering will include participants from the Bahá'í, Buddhist, Catholic, Center for Spiritual Living, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Jewish, Muslim, Native American, Protestant, Sufi, Unitarian Universalist and other faith traditions.

A reception and fellowship time will follow the service.

For more information please call (253) 426-1506

or email sandyw@associatedministries.org

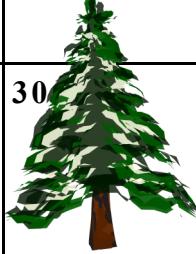
www.associatedministries.org

The Faith Action Network is very active at this time of year. We are meeting with legislators: we met Christine Kilduff in mid-September and Dick Muri in early October. At those meetings, we made clear the reactions we had to the results of last year's legislative process, and we presented what we may want in the coming year. The brain trust at FAN is building the focus for the next legislative year and will likely share it with FAN members at the annual dinner, slated for November 15. I have been making somewhat regular announcements in church about the FAN dinner, and fourteen people from our church have already signed up. There is room for more, and I encourage you to talk with me or Cathy about joining us.

At the FAN dinner, we will listen to the keynote speaker, the Reverend Dr. Carey Andrews, who is the senior pastor at the AME Church in Seattle. This should be an inspirational presentation, and I expect to hear some about Black Lives Matter, the shooting at the AME church in Charleston, SC, and other minority issues. Look forward to information from me about Lobby Day, which will occur sometime in January or February of 2016, after this annual dinner.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Brown

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day  Daylight Savings	2 5pm SPR Mtg.	3 10 am Cong. Care Mtg. Noon P&J Mtg 1pm ALZ Group	4 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	5 6:30pm Finance Mtg 7:30pm Choir	6	7
8	9 6:30pm Board Mtg	10	11 Veterans Day Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Grp 5pm W&A Mtg.	12 7:30pm Choir		14 9 am-4pm Communication Workshop: <i>We have a Story to Tell</i>
15 11:30am Thankful Dinner 4:30pm FAN Dinner 	16	17	18 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 5pm FSG	19 7:30pm Choir	20 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night	21 
22	23	24 7pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering	25 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	26 Thanksgiving Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens! 	30					

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

Church Contact (253) 564-2754
office@ucup.org
Church Employees
 Pastor Cathy pastor@ucup.org

Office Admin: Lynne Jenks-Dudschat
 Music Director: Jeff Andersen
 Nursery Attendant: Dawn Foreman
 Nursery Attendant: Linda Vanderbilt

Newsletter

Vol. 33 No.11

November 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)

***We are United with God,
United to Love,
and United to Serve Others***

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

WELCOME here.

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

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