

December 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

Spread Some Christmas Joy!

Again this year we have adopted a family of five from the Family Housing Network to purchase Christmas gifts. Tags with the requested gift items will be available beginning November 29: select a tag, shop for the gift, wrap it and include the tag (which is needed for sorting) plus write the person's name on a gift tag or card from United Church in University Place and return your gift to the church by December 13th.

Included among the FHN wishes will be a few from folks in our congregation who are in need of extra cheer this Christmas season.

"If the storm rages around your home today, please consider that the daily lives of the families served by FHN often is a constant storm of worries; you can quiet the howling winds of uncertainty in a child's life by the simple act of sharing Christmas."



Epiphany Celebration

Wednesday, January 6th - 6 p.m.

-Fellowship Hall Soup Supper, Celtic Spiral Service, and King's Cake -



We are starting a new tradition with an Epiphany celebration complete with a Spiral Service, and King's Cake. Come at 6pm for a simple soup supper.

We will then gather around the Spiral made of Evergreen Boughs, with a Christ Candle lit in the center. The Spiral Service, though not Celtic in origin, draws heavily upon the symbolism of the light and the cycle of the seasons which permeates the Spirituality of the Celtic Christians; a carry-over from the pagan Celts. In many cultures the spiral is a symbol of infinity, eternity, or God. On this evening, our Spiral service will remind us all that each one of us bears a light within - kindled by God and through Christ - to light our way through the physical darkness of winter and through the season of Epiphany. A labyrinth of evergreens will be laid out on the floor with stars scattered throughout the boughs. A white Christ candle is placed in the center. Each participant will make a journey into the middle where, one by one, we will light our own candle from the Christ candle, journey back out of the spiral to exchange our lit candle for a star on in the spiral. The Star reminds us of the guiding light that led the Wise men and Shepherds to the birthplace of the Christ Child. That light is still there to guide us in our own personal journey throughout Epiphany.

After the Spiral service, we will feast on a traditional King's Cake, with three hidden treasures and discover who the Wise Ones are for the next year.



Pastor Cathy's Reflection

The last line of the history of United Church in University Place reads: We have welcomed the Taing, the Khou, the Long, the Khrumrruk, and the Mburugu families to our country and to our congregation. That is one significant sentence included in the almost 46 year history of this congregation. What it tells me is that this congregation has taken seriously the words from scripture to welcome the stranger, to offer hospitality to the foreigner. And while these families are no longer physically present in this congregation, I imagine they remember this church with fondness in their hearts. And if you talk to some of the folks who have been a part of this church for the past 30-40 years, they could tell a few stories of friends made and lives transformed.

In preparation for Advent, we prepare a place in our hearts to welcome once again a baby in a manger, the Christ child - one who, scripture tells us, would become a refugee along with his family. From the earliest of days, there have been those who needed to flee their present geography for a myriad of reasons. I imagine, there will always be those who need to flee and find hospitality in a new place.



Here are two perspectives on the refugee crisis - one from our Governor, Jay Inslee, and the other from my clergy colleague, Rev. Paul Jeffrey, who spoke a week ago to a group of folks in Puyallup.

Here are a few excerpts from Gov. Jay Inslee's address last week: Like many states, Washington has long kept an open door for people fleeing violence and repression. In 1975, Daniel Evans, welcomed Vietnamese refugees to our state, even as other states turned their backs, along the lines of what we hear today about Syrians. Gov. Evan's initial invitation to accept 500 of these refugees became the basis for a successful resettlement program that continues to this day, helping those fleeing war and persecution rebuild their lives. People are right to be angry and hurting because 129 innocent people who thought they were safe were slaughtered in Paris. But we cannot condemn all Syrians or all Muslims for those heinous acts. I don't deny or condemn the fear that has swelled since the Paris attacks. But fear can be overcome. We can take a deep breath and make a realistic assessment of risk.

Paul Jeffrey is a photo-journalist missionary who is part of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference and offers a perspective on the Syrian refugee crisis. Paul traveled to Lesbos at the end of October to document up to 3000 refugees a day crossing the sea to this small Greek Island. UMC.ORG documents that during one week in October, 56,000-plus migrants and refugees crossed the Mediterranean from Turkey to Greece, despite worsening weather. Volunteers - local fishermen and farmers, lifeguards - wade into the water to bring boats to safety, offer dry clothes, blankets, food and water and then help get the refugees to a registration center. Jeffrey recounts in a correspondence back to the U.S. watching Nabil Minas, a Christian

(Continued....)

(Continued.....) from Syria, carry his children to the shore, kissing the ground, crossing himself and giving everyone nearby a wet hug. Jeffrey says hugs are an important part of the welcome. Some people are scared when they arrive, are crying or shaking, and often the volunteers just hold them so they can feel safe and not quite so alone.

As we move deeper into the season of Advent, may we open our arms and our hearts in welcome and hospitality, and may the refrain we sing throughout Advent live among us: "Christ be our light, shine in our hearts, shine in the darkness. Christ be our light - shine in your church gathered today."



Prez Perspectives

As we move into the holiday season, let's not be distracted by twinkling lights, blaring music, and promises of huge savings while shopping. What we are celebrating in Thanksgiving is the gift of food by people who had it (The Native Americans) to people in need (the Pilgrims). And then we celebrate the birth of Jesus, a gift by God to the world. United Church knows how to give, whether it is for an adopted Family Housing Network family, serving lunch at My Sister's Pantry, bringing food for the homeless that we house twice a year, or bringing food to share with our church family. In each gift, we are giving thanks for shelter, providence, love, support and caring. Another way we give is to share our time, talents and tithes with our church. This keeps the lights on, the building heated, the staff paid, and let us do magical things like installing a hearing loop system, get new materials for Sunday School, get planters to protect our walkway from trucks backing over it, or have a new, beautiful bench at our door (which smells wonderfully of cedar - you never stopped to smell the roses?)

I reflect on the many blessings we have and share with one another, by simple acts of greeting new visitors, hugging friends, sharing laughter and adventures, welcoming new members, calling those we missed seeing at church, sharing with our small groups as we get better acquainted, praying for one another, and doing the work that the church needs done. Labor is also a gift, and we have been given many gifts by this means from fixing leaky faucets to putting new locks on bathroom doors, putting up the downstairs drapes for housing, hanging art work to share and brighten our days, and meeting to plan ahead. Our days may be filled with work and family, but we always seem to find time for one another and UCUP as well.

I know I have been blessed by my UCUP family many times over during the years. And I will continue to seek ways to pay these blessings forward. In January, we'll be holding our annual meeting and UMC Charge Conference. At this time, we will vote to approve a new budget, a revised Constitution, and a strategic plan for the coming 14 months. We will also approve a revised values and mission statement generated during our October retreat. We will be electing new people to leadership positions. We do this while sharing a meal. So mark your calendars for January 10th as we move onward together. Be well during the holidays, remember those less fortunate, and remember that Jesus' central message was about LOVE.. Blessings to all of you.

WE MAKE
A LIVING
BY WHAT WE GET,
BUT WE MAKE
A LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.
winston churchill

Thankful & Inspired

Submitted by Janet Wicks

Our congregation has been blessed with many gifted and generous individuals over the years. They've provided a legacy of tradition and beauty that continues to inspire and nurture this congregation. We do our best to remember them on All Saints Sunday, and we honor their contributions by using their gifts wisely.

The additions to our front entry, a still "growing" project, are possible because of a gift from Shirley Charette's estate. Shirley added color, creativity and beauty throughout the years with her decorative artistic touch, and planted the seeds that inspire us to carry on those traditions. New ideas and new traditions are part of an active and growing church but, aesthetically speaking, it's good to celebrate our Saints of Inspiration. Thanks to All.



Back to our Future!

Stewardship pledges put us on the road to our future at United Church in University Place

On Nov. 15 we filled our DeLorean with our hopes, dreams, and pledges and put United Church in University Place on the road to OUR future. Thank you to all of our church members who completed the time, talent, and financial pledge forms and participated in our stewardship celebration. With the preliminary report of \$132,000 collected in financial pledges so far, we're well on our way to meeting our goal to support the 2016 budget.

Following the worship service, we celebrated our stewardship pledges with a Thankful Dinner with 60 members joining us. Special thanks to Pamela Maddess, Janet Wicks, Leslie Merta, and Nancy Moffett for decorating the Fellowship Hall for our time travel to the future and for preparing a sumptuous feast of ham, potatoes, and tasty sides. Thanks too, to all of the church members who provided side dishes and desserts, to Bob Rudolph, Fran Cash, and many other volunteers who helped with the clean-up. The volunteers at United Church in U.P. are the best!

If you would still like to complete your stewardship pledges for time, talent, and financial support, forms are available from the church office.

Thank you,
United Church in U.P. Time Travelers!



United Church in University Place Thankful Dinner 11/15/2015



**FELLOWSHIP TIME &
A HUGE THANK YOU**

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS





JOYS AND CONCERNS

Submitted by Sharon Britcher

November, the month of thankful giving, in which we remembered on All Saints Day those of our church family who have given time and talent and have passed from this life but are with us in spirit.

Some of our church members and friends have particularly needed our thoughts and prayers. Jane Brazell has been dealing with medical problems, others have friends and family suffering. Jenny Hartley's sister, Emily, has had a couple of severe falls. Margie Lehmann who had a family member pass recently, Renee Gillard's friend, Lois Coho, who was Cierra's Girl Scout Leader, has cancer. Chuck Schilling's father is in the hospital. Prayers of thankfulness for all those who are recuperating and healing. Especially our hearts and prayers go out to the people of France after the bombings in Paris.

We think of our servicemen and women on Veteran's Day and, we honored the men and women from our congregation who have served our country. We think especially of those far from home at holiday time.

Joy for Rhonda Admas on her step daughters wedding and for Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov 22nd when our worship service was led by Irene DeMaris, a ministerial candidate and deacon.

What a joy we had with the kick off of our pledge campaign, "Back to Our Future." Wow--the silver car propelled down the center aisle by children's feet! And capping pledge Sunday a glorious Thankful Dinner with silver stars and spirals descending from the ceiling of the fellowship hall amid the silver and blue decor. Thanks to Don Morgan for the special blue light! And to all who provided a memorable Ham and Potluck dinner. What a way to enter into our Advent and Christmas Season. We wish every one of you could have been there, but hope to see you as part of our church celebrations and worship during December.



Fellowship Time 11/22/15
Thanksgiving Turkey's made by
Addy & Tanner Harding!

Special Thanks

Many thanks to Marilyn Thompson
our Stewardship Chair,
who brought us the delightful theme,
"Back to Our Future"
complete with a DeLorean automobile and
Flux Capacitor!



Support us when you shop this holiday

Amazon donates when you shop at smile.amazon.com.



The holidays are approaching and you can support us as you are shopping for gifts. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates 5% of your gift total to United Church in University Place! It is that simple. Use the link below to get started on your shopping now! We thank you in advance for your shopping support.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0879452>

Minister's Discretionary Fund

If you'd like to make an extra gift to the church this time of year, consider the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Pastor Cathy utilizes this fund year round and confidentially helps people both inside and outside of our congregation who have a need that would otherwise not be met. Any amount is appreciated --just write "MDF" in the memo line of your check.

Thank you!

The Greening Activity Group found a very recent report from the University of Washington on the impact of global climate change on our area, and we wanted to share it with those who might be interested.

If you would like to see the report, you can find it at this website:

<https://cig.uw.edu/resources/special-reports/ps-sok/>

Thanks again,
Roger



HAPPY BIRTHDAY December 2015

- 3 AJ Milleret
- 5 Brittney Tudor (14yrs)
- 9 Jeff Gillard
Emily Hartley
Marge Lehmann
- 10 Pat Mail
Rebecca Young (15yrs)
- 11 Amber Dickson
- 12 Janet Wicks
- 14 Jim Davis
- 15 Barbara Kearley
- 16 Lucy Cadle (9yrs)
Neil Rader
- 17 Duncan
Ron Robinson
- 20 Jeff Andersen
- 22 Kathy Munn
- 24 Cathy Law
- 25 Jesus of Nazareth
- 30 Linda Vanderbilt
- 31 Jim Cash



'Up Coming Celebrations

December 6th—Cookies & Crèches

The Congregational Care Cluster will be honoring Shirley Charette's Legacy and will be offering Cookies and Crèches after worship! If you have a Crèche (nativity) to share, please arrive early to set it up!



December 6th & 13th - Advent Chime Choir

Our UCUP hand chime choir will be offering musical selections during Sunday morning worship services in December. The chimes will lead us into worship on December 6th, and 13th. The special sound a harmonizing group of chimes create is magical, and always adds a delightful touch to the Advent season.

December 13th—Christmas Pageant

The pageant is not the same as last year's "Please touch", rather a new script, but has the same intergenerational, non rehearsal, hands on approach with members choosing costumes as they arrive for worship.

3pm—*Sonoro Christmas Choir Concert* in the sanctuary. Church members attend free!

December 17th—7:00pm Blue Christmas or "Longest Night" - Service of Solace

This is a time of the year when memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming. For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult. For others, the beginning of another lonely New Year is hard to face. In this service, we'll have some prayer and singing songs appropriate to the Christmas Season, and a ritual for healing. Join us for prayer services where we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, and offer them to God.



December 20th—Choir Cantata

Our UCUP choir will be presenting "The Christmas Light", a Christmas cantata, during the worship service on December 20th. Based on classic choral masterworks, this piece incorporates choir, vocal solos, ensembles and narration. The piece concludes with a Celebration of Carols, where the congregation is invited to participate. The music and dramatic narrative will remind us of the hope, peace, joy and love of this holy season of Christ born anew, in our lives, and in the world.



December 24th—7:00pm Celtic Christmas Eve Service

Join us as we both anticipate and celebrate the birth of the Light of Jesus in the world and in our lives! This will be our traditional service of singing "Silent Night" by candlelight and of stomping our feet to the rhythm of the haunting bagpipes as played by our gifted guests Suzanne Wolfe and Seamus Neary.

'Up Coming Celebrations'

December 6th - 29th - Alternative Gift Fair

Beginning the first Sunday in Advent on November 29 and continuing through December 20, the Peace and Justice Group will have several alternative gift options available: Heifer International, Church World Service and Bethlehem Bible College.

Bethlehem Bible College has been selected as a recipient of our alternative gifts this year. Judy Thierry visited the college on her trip to Israel last winter and witnessed firsthand the need there. Located in Bethlehem in the West Bank, both the city of Bethlehem and the college have suffered because of the ongoing Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Bethlehem Bible College seeks to prepare Christian leaders to serve Arab churches and society. It trains its students to model Christ-centered-ness, Godly humility, and biblical wholeness. As life-long learners, its graduates follow Jesus'; way of creative justice and mercy in both their personal and professional lives. For more information visit www.bethbc.org.

Church World Service offers an array of tools and resources it has determined are needed to do the most good in impoverished places in the world. You will help tackle poverty and injustice when you purchase gifts in program categories of food and gardening, children and education, women, refugees, emergency response or water. For more information visit www.cwsglobal.org

Heifer International works in the areas of livestock and agriculture with time-tested programs that alleviate hunger and poverty. Their field staff is comprised of livestock specialists and their programs are considered among the most successful in the world. You can help support a family in need for as little as \$10 for a share of a pig and up to \$5,000 a full ark. For more information visit www.heifer.org.

December 27th—Sacred Dance

January 6th—6:00pm Epiphany—Spiral Service

We are starting a new tradition with an Epiphany celebration complete with a Spiral Service, and King's Cake. Come at 6pm for a simple soup supper.



After the Spiral service, we will feast on a traditional King's Cake, with three hidden treasures and discover who the Wise Ones are for the next year.

January 10th—11:30am United Church in UP's Annual Meeting

This meeting is open to all church members and you are encouraged to join us. We will be electing new people to leadership positions for 2016. We will also be voting to approve a new budget, a revised Constitution, and a strategic plan for the upcoming year.



The Faith Action Network Annual Dinner was held at the Renton Pavilion on Sunday, November 15. There was an overflow crowd. Our delegation from United Church in University Place occupied most of two tables (#4 and #5) in the front of the room, most likely because we were early registrants. We heard from co-directors Paul Benz and Elise DeGooyer that we now have more than 100 partners, mostly churches, and are growing from there.

There were two legacy awards given, one posthumously to Reverend Loren Arnett and one to former Senator Rosa Franklin, who served in our neighboring 29th District. We heard the Rev. Dr. Corey G. Anderson give a powerful speech concerning how America needs to live up to its creed of justice for all, and, in light of all the recent police events, how we need to be vigilant to protect justice for all. It was a stirring speech or sermon, and it presented FAN with a challenge to be even more active than before.

We learned that our next Lobby Day is Thursday, February 4, 2016. Our legislative agenda includes these five broad categories:

- 1) Reducing wealth inequality
- 2) Fully fund and protect Health and Human Services, Mental Health Programs, and Public Education
- 3) Dismantling the culture of violence
- 4) Protect Housing and Prevent homelessness
- 5) Sustaining Washington's environment



Each of these issues has several specifics within the category, and all of them are to be presented to our legislators. I plan to be actively involved, and I hope you will be as well.

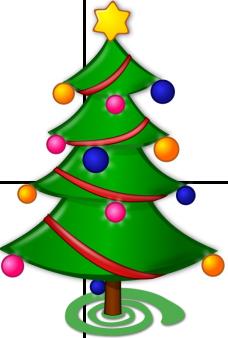
We raised approximately \$30,000 that night to match Rick Steves's promise to put \$30,000 toward the support of Faith Action Network.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Brown

FAITH ACTION NETWORK
A Partnership for the Common Good



December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Alternative Gift Fair & Giving Tree throughout Advent!		1 10 am Cong. Care Mtg. Noon P&J Mtg 1pm ALZ Group	2 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	3 6:30 pm Finance Mtg 7:30 pm Choir	4	5 
6 Advent II Chimes during worship Cookies & Creches	7 4pm SPR Mtg.	8	9 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Grp	10 7:30 pm Choir	11	
13 Advent III Xmas Pageant 3pm Sonoro Christmas Concert	14 6:30pm Board Mtg	15 	16 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 5pm FSG	17 7:00pm Blue Christmas Service	18 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night	19 
20 Advent IV Choir Cantata	21 	22	23 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	24 7pm Celtic Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 Christmas Office Closed	26 
27 Advent V Sacred Dance	28 Office Closed	29	30 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	31		

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

Church Contact (253) 564-2754
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Office Admin: Lynne Jenks-Dudschat
 Music Director: Jeff Andersen
 Nursery Attendant: Dawn Foreman
 Nursery Attendant: Linda Vanderbilt

Newsletter

Vol. 33 No.12

December 1, 2015

United Church In University Place

3912 Grandview Dr W
University Place, WA
98466



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

Periodicals
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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
6-7:30pm Blue Heron Zen
Meditation Community Group
In the Youth Wing

Thursdays

7:30pm Choir Practice
(Sept—May)

Monthly

1st Sunday of the month

Communion during worship

1st Tuesday of the month

1pm Alzheimer's Support Group

3rd Friday of the month

6:30pm P,B & Jam Night
Bring your instruments!

4th Sunday of the month

11:45am 4th Sunday Forum

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

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ABOVE ADDRESS

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UNITED CHURCH IN UNIVERSITY PLACE

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