

January 2016

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

Join Us for the UCUP Annual Meeting—January 10th at 11:45am



UCUP Congregation - it's that time of year again when we get together to review 2015, vote for new officers, adopt a budget, and support the 2016 goals that the Retreat identified, as well as other important items for our future. Please join us Sunday, January 10th, following our Sunday Worship Service. A light meal will be available. All are welcome, but only members may vote. Come share fellowship, food and our future.

Cluster Conveners, Committee Chairs, and other ad hoc groups should be prepared to make a brief summary report of your year's activities. A summary report should have been submitted to Lynne earlier. On January 3rd, please pick up a copy of the 2015 meeting minutes (which we'll approve on the 10th), and a copy of the proposed budget. This will give you a chance to review them before it is adopted during the meeting. We look forward to seeing you on the 10th.

The United Church Board



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

Advent had a few amazing surprises for me - both personally and at church.

The first: Our new UCUP church website, designed by our first and only elected lay delegate to the UMC General Conference, Marie Kuch-Stanovsky. The new website went live in the middle of December. It has the same address as the one Chris Walters built for the church - ucup.org - but with a different look. Go to the website, check out the pages, see what you like, take note of what might need editing, and report back. You may not be aware of it, but a number of our guests who walk through the door for the first time find us through our website. Part of what draws them in, beyond denominational loyalty is our commitment to Social Justice, AND our Reconciling/Open & Affirming status. That gets people in the door, but the high rate of guests returning is ALL about the welcome they receive when they arrive. So continue the good work of offering hospitality, greeting warmly, and never allowing a newcomer to stand more than two minutes by themselves during our fellowship time.

Our Social Media presence is a very important tool in the community to attract people to our church. We make sure to have vibrant photos of what's happening in our church posted on our website and on our Facebook page. This means that we need your permission to post photos on our Social Media. We only take photos of your best side. If you would prefer NOT to have your photo posted on our website, on our Facebook page or in our monthly newsletter, please let me know. So if you're thinking of inviting friends to join us in worship, have them take a look at our website, and our Facebook page. It will be a good introduction to our church.

The second event: Angie and I have been talking with her sister & brother-in-law, who are a generation older and currently living in Virginia, about moving out west, and potentially buying a home with us so we can live together. The past six months, I have been looking. Angie's sister Starr came for a week-long visit on December 8th to get the lay of the land, and just see what winter was like in Tacoma. We saw a few houses, got pre-approved for a loan for when the time came in the spring to buy a home. On Saturday, 12/12 we saw a home for the second time, and realized it would accommodate all of our needs, and decided to put in an offer. By Monday, 12/14, our offer was accepted pending inspection. By 12/24, Christmas Eve, we sealed the deal. We are now homeowners in Tacoma on the West Slope just south of the Narrows Bridge. Turns out our timing is highly liturgical - buy during Advent, just before Christmas; move during Lent, just before Easter! Closing date is 2/19. Look for an invitation to a house-blessing/Open House on February 21st - sans furniture. Instead of Bring your own Beverage, it will be Bring your own Chair! Can't wait to discover what 2016 holds.





Prez Perspectives

It has been my privilege and honor to have served United Church these past two years. I'll continue to be involved, but I'd like to see many more of you - especially our new congregants - also get involved. Part of the magic of UCUP is sharing and working with others in our church family. Each of you

has special skills to bring to our tripartite structure: Spiritual Growth, Community and Service. You are welcome to try any committee, cluster or team of your choice, and if it doesn't feel right or you, try another one. We hope each of you finds a congenial fit in some aspect of our church family.



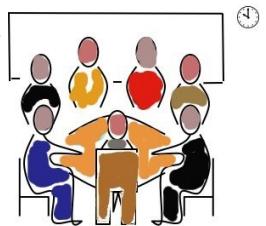
In some cases, we ask individuals to step up and become coordinators of large activities. The coordinator is a super-recruiter, getting many others to step up for a specific service or activity. This includes the fun & fellowship in our church. The first major activity we need new coordinators for is the Family Housing Network (AKA Phoenix Housing). The current coordinators, Ardi Herbal and Kathleen Kenna, will be happy to orient you, direct you, and guide you through the intricacies of providing a home for homeless families for two weeks (one week each time). We are blessed to have the help of the faithful at Mt. Cross Lutheran, our neighbor just up the road. But it takes a village to support families, so please consider helping in some aspect of this service when asked. Needed are folks to set up, take down, bring food, serve as hosts, spend nights, and other tasks. So consider this opportunity.



Coming up in Lent is our annual Soup Suppers which we share a light meal and learn more about our faith. Designated "Soupers" make a couple of delicious soups, and others bring hand food, bread, and sweets. More info coming, but a coordinator will help sign up people. We love activities around food!

Worship always needs help, whether it is ushering, working with the youth as acolytes, helping read or serve communion. Some of this is by invitation of the pastor, but consider when asked saying "Yes, I'll serve." Setting up and cleaning up after meals needs willing bodies, as does helping with the outdoor services (Easter Sunrise and the Blessing of the Animals). Sunday School ALWAYS needs teachers, observers, and someone to work with the Teens. Have you noticed we are getting more children and youth joining us in church? This is a good thing, and they need us as their teachers and mentors.

Next up: Our annual church meeting and Charge Conference, Sunday, January 10th after worship. Food will be available. We will vote on new church officers, our budget, goals for the next year, conference delegates, and share summaries of our year passed. District Superintendent Rev. Cara Scriven will be joining us; making this a legal charge conference for the Methodists (the UCC has no parallel requirement). Please join us.



Continued.....

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Prez Perspectives

I count my blessings regularly, giving thanks for the many gifts I have received. I consider many of you in UCUP my "gifts" that have provided counsel, friendship, food, and help with projects. Next time you're in church, look around and count your Gifts among the people who are there for you. Trusting you all had healthy, happy holidays with friends and families.

Yours in Service & Gratitude,
Pat Mail, President



Peace & Justice

THANK YOU to everyone who brought an alternative gift. We raised a total of \$1,246 for Church World Service and Heifer International. Proceeds from Rwandan card and mug mats made by Helen Engle's daughter were added to the total sent to Church World Service.

More THANKS to everyone who purchased a gift (or two or three) for the Family Housing Network family we adopted. There were so many beautifully wrapped gifts of all shapes and sizes that were delivered in mid-December. We can only imagine the joy that lit up their faces when they opened the many practical and fun gifts. Some of you also purchased gift cards for a few congregation members who could use extra help. The gift cards were greatly appreciated.

And lastly, many of you purchased unique olive wood and glass items from the Bethlehem Bible College. Thank you to Judy Theirry for obtaining those items so we could raise awareness about the college. As we decorate our homes for Christmas in future years, we will remember the Christians living out their faith in Palestine.



The generosity of this congregation shines in so many ways during this season of celebrating Jesus birth!

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**Peace and Justice Cluster** members attended a UPPC hosted 3-hour introduction on refugees on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The Church World Relief, Seattle office, led a discussion with 300 attendees. They sustain, with numerous volunteers, the annual intake and support for over 800 refugees entering western WA from around the world. They need not only our awareness but they need volunteers. They have a variety of volunteer opportunities available.

### **Refugee Response Information & Training—Wed. Jan 20-Feb 3 6:30-7:30PM**

Interested in helping refugees resettle in the area? Join us for three nights in January and February, to help you prepare. You will hear from former refugees and volunteers who have been working with refugees, receive information on how to love your Muslim neighbors, and connect with others interested in supporting refugees. Childcare is available for those who register in advance. Register online at [UPPC.org](http://UPPC.org) "Events."



# JOYS AND CONCERNS

Submitted by Kathryn Munn

The Christmas Elves have been busy around United Church hanging the greens and filling the cookie trays with delicious treats like Robert Brown's shortbread, Addie's decorated sugar cookies and Rhonda's pizelles.

Home for the Holidays can be a delight for many--and we were delighted to welcome Cecelia Schilling home from her first term at Goucher...and seated where else, but at the sound system controls. Our littlest shepherd, Emma was seated on the chancel step during the Christmas program--wasn't it just yesterday that her dad, Chris, carried Emma on the sheepskin?

It was a joy to sing Happy Birthday to Jeff Andersen, who has brought such joy through music to us all. Santa and Mrs. Claus, aka Bob and Pat Rudolph, brought lots of joy to the kids at a foster children's group they visit each year. We rejoice with Ardie Herbel in welcoming her new great grandson.



We pray that Emily Hartley and the fathers of Don Thompson and Jim Fohrman recover quickly after recent falls. We hope for speedy healing for Joan Walston after recent scalp surgery.

We fervently pray together for Peace on Earth in our troubled world.



## January 2016

- 1 Jim Fohrman
- 2 Jon Foreman
- 16 Randi Byrd
- Elizabeth Scherman
- 18 United Church in UP - 45yrs
- 20 Hadi Dadashian
- 21 Cierra Gillard
- 25 Joan Martin
- 28 Mildred Seales
- Michelle Wallace

## Family Housing Network

The pages of the calendar fly by just like the leaves of our trees flying by in the wind. We barely finish our work with the families of Family Housing Network and it's time for our new guests to arrive. We will be preparing for our new families arrival on January 30 through February 6th. You will see sign-up sheets appear the first week of January in their usual place by the coffee corner. I know we can count on you, as always, to help us with the many jobs it takes to make our families feel welcome.

In Christ's Love,  
Ardie Herbel



## Up Coming Celebrations

### *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. If you would like to volunteer to bring soup, please talk to Pastor Cathy.

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.

### *January 20—February 3—Refugee Response Information & Training*

Interested in helping refugees resettle in the area? Join us for three Wednesday nights in January and February from 6:30-7:30pm, to help you prepare. You will hear from former refugees and volunteers who have been working with refugees, receive information on how to love your Muslim neighbors and connect with others in supporting refugees.

### *January 30th—Family Housing Network Families Arrive* A Partnership for the Common Good

### *February 4th—Faith Action Network Lobby Day*

Please let Robert Brown or Pastor Cathy know if you plan to attend. We will likely set up a car pool or two for the drive down to Olympia. Appointments are made for us, so no work ahead of time is required. However, it would be good for you to know the planks on Faith Action Network's platform so we can have an intelligent discussion with our representatives and senator. The platform is available on the FAN website: [fanwa.org](http://fanwa.org).

### *February 10th—Events for Lent*

It is an odd feeling to write about events for Lent on the 23rd of December. But because Ash Wednesday falls so early this year, it's not too early to be thinking ahead. We will be offering an Ash Wednesday service on February 10th in the evening.



 Prior to that, we will honor Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras with our second annual Mardi Gras Pancake breakfast after worship on Sunday, February 7th. If anyone wants feels like frying up some bacon & pancakes that day, let Pastor Cathy know. We will decorate Mardi Gras masks, create more Alleluia banners, participate in the Great Pancake Relay, and burn the palms to create the ashes for our Ash Wednesday service.

### *February & March—Lenten Soup Suppers and program*

We will hold a simple supper on Wednesday evenings during Lent on February 17th, 24th, March 2nd, 9th, and 16th. If you can prepare soup for one of those evenings, a sign-up sheet will appear in the entry way soon. A study is yet to be chosen, so stay tuned. In the meantime get these dates on your 2016 calendar.



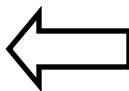
# United Church in University Place Advent 2015



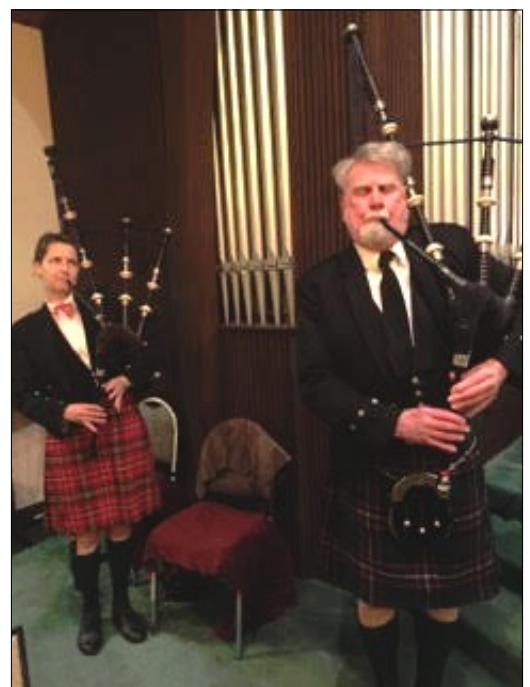
## Celtic Christmas Eve Service



Baby Eliza, Jim & Nancy Davis' great granddaughter was the symbolic Christ Child for our Christmas Eve Service



Seamus & Suzanne joined us to help lead our Celtic Christmas Eve Worship Service



## Christmas Cantata



## New Member Rev. Cathi Cline

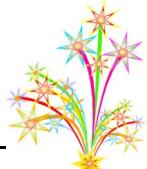
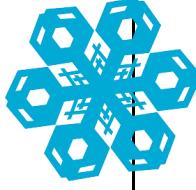
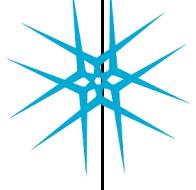
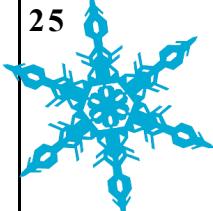


## Christmas Pageant



**UCUP  
2015**

# January 2016

| Sun                                                                                                                     | Mon                                                                                       | Tue                                                                               | Wed                                                                                                                              | Thu                                                                                                                  | Fri                                                                                                                            | Sat                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                        |                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                  |                                    | 1<br>New Years Day                                                                                                             | 2<br>    |
| 3                                                                                                                       | 4                                                                                         | 5<br>10am Cong. Care Mtg.<br>1pm ALZ Group<br>5pm SPR Mtg.                        | 6<br>Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Grp<br>6pm Epiphany Spiral Srv.                                                               | 7<br>6:30pm Finance Mtg<br>7:30pm  | 8                                                                                                                              | 9<br>    |
| 10<br>11:45am<br>Annual<br>Meeting<br> | 11<br>6:30pm<br>Board Mtg                                                                 | 12                                                                                | 13<br>Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group<br>5pm FSG                                                                             | 14<br>7:30pm                      | 15<br>6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night<br> | 16                                                                                          |
| 17<br>                               | 18<br> | 19                                                                                | 20<br>Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group<br>5pm FSG Mtg                                                                         | 21<br>7:30pm                     | 22                                                                                                                             | 23<br> |
| 24                                                                                                                      | 25<br> | 26                                                                                | 27<br>Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group<br> | 28<br>7:30pm                     | 29                                                                                                                             | 30<br>Family Housing Network Arrives                                                        |
| 31                                                                                                                      |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                             |

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

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

Office Admin: Lynne Jenks-Dudschus  
 Music Director: Jeff Andersen  
 Nursery Attendant: Rosie Schultz

## Newsletter

Vol. 34 No.1  
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### United Church In University Place

3912 Grandview Dr W  
University Place, WA  
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# WELCOME

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