

April 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



DINNER GROUPS

Do you like to eat?

Do you enjoy sharing a meal with other people?

Do you like to get to know people you know on a deeper level?

Are you open to getting to know more people?

Consider signing up for a dinner group that will meet once a month for four months (May-August). Dinners or brunches might be held in people's homes with everyone contributing a part of the meal or they might be coordinated at a no-host restaurant.

Sign-up sheets will be available the next couple of weeks in the entry way.
Let's eat, drink, and be merry!

A spring **Giving Tree** is growing in our UCUP midst.

It is a reminder that refugees entering into the US, specifically our Seattle/Puget Sound Area families as hosted by the [World Relief](#)

[Seattle](#), come without household items. They may have waited as long as three years for final clearance and placement. It is a reminder of things that we may take for granted. For example, a pillow, soap, towels, cups and dishes, cleaning supplies -- everything that makes a home functional. It is a reminder of universal and basic human needs during this period of adjustment after waiting so long.

Please consider new items that you can contribute. Involve your children by talking about these needs and helping them to select an item.

Look for the UCUP **Giving Tree** in the narthex the Sunday after Easter -- April 3rd. A list of items can also be found at WRS [furnish-a-home](#) web site. We will take the collected items to the WRS Kent office on May 8th.

For additional questions please contact Peace and Justice Committee member: Judy Thierry, email: jthierry84@gmail.com or call 240-994-8572.

Thank you for your generosity.
Judy Thierry



Win Bjarke's 23rd Leap Year Birthday





From Pastor Cathy

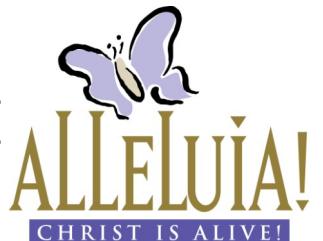
I remember the carefree days when I could get all of my belongings into my 1982 Toyota Corolla station wagon, with perhaps a few items stored with friends. Somewhere between seminary and becoming a pastor, I am painfully aware that those days are over, even with a slightly larger 2003 CR-V. I just re-discovered that moving is the third most stressful situation to face in life, following death and divorce. Prior to this month, I would have placed it lower on the list. Not now. Even when it's just across town, even when it's for really good and positive reasons. I tell you, I have felt incredibly disorientated.

Transitions, by definition, are times of change, and most of us say change is a good thing unless it's happening to us. Human beings are creatures of habit, comfort, and familiarity. We take emotional and mental refuge in knowing that everything has its place. I can attest to not feeling much refuge in the chaos of moving. While checklists to help organize the practical aspects of moving help a bit, it doesn't reduce the emotional disorientation.

I am thankful that when I was appointed to UCUP 18 months ago, we were already living in Tacoma. I did not need to move households, only the contents of my office, and the direction I headed to get to church. It would have been a much more stressful scenario to change churches AND my address.

All of this brings me to a place of profound Easter gratitude for this congregation. You have been so incredibly gracious and caring, with multiples offers to help out with various tasks. While I was probably crazy not to accept the generous offers, my heart is full with gratitude. A couple of retired clergy stepped into the pulpit to lead worship in the last month. Thank you Leslie Ann Knight & Jim Davis. We were incredibly blessed by a new understanding of what Jesus' last week of life may have been like during the poignant Palm Sunday Drama. Thank you Neva Laurie-Berry for bringing this play to life and casting our talented congregation into various roles. Many hands made light work in assisting with the Maundy Thursday service as 35 of us were bumping elbows in the back of the sanctuary - AKA - "UPPER ROOM". At least a dozen hardy UCUP-ers came out early Easter morning, "while it was still dark" to set up and help lead the Easter Sunrise Service in the Curran Apple Orchard. With 35 people in attendance, half of the folks were visitors from the neighborhood. While it was still dark, blustery cold with the wind whipping and changing direction every five seconds, our hearts were warm with solidarity and fellowship. And then the masses drove into the parking lot to celebrate Easter with shouts of "Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed!" Over 100 people lifted their voices singing Christ the Lord is Risen Today, "soaring now where Christ has led" with the strains from the organ. Looking out over the sanctuary, my heart swelled with love and thanksgiving for this faithful congregation - for ALL the ways people step up to show love, to care for one another, to offer hospitality. When Angie and I purchased our new home just 2.5 miles from UCUP, part of the reason is OUR/MY commitment to stay at UCUP for the next however many years.

While I might feel a bit of disorientation, chaos and stress for a blip of a moment, my deepest joy is sharing ministry with the folks who declare UCUP to be their spiritual home. May God's presence continue to abide deeply within and around us, blessing us as we continue the work of God together. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!



From the President

I have been away recently, and the church got along just fine. That's to be expected, but it is nice to know that our events are structured and they work. I heard at the board meeting on March 14 that the Fourth Sunday Forum in February was well-attended. The parks people were here to explain about why they feel University Place needs a park district. Apparently, this was well received and there were excellent questions.

We have plans for a Fourth Sunday Forum on April 24 that should delight people. Read about it elsewhere in this newsletter.

The board has been plugging away at updating our church constitution for the last 2 years, at least. We have made enough progress that we may schedule an all church meeting in either May or September to approve these changes. This is only one issue the board is working on. We are also keeping in mind the 14 month goals that were hammered out in October 2015 and approved at our annual meeting. Progress is being made on that front as well.

We celebrate our new members who joined on March 13. David & Sheila Higby, and Rev. Allison & Tom Milligan

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Brown



UCUP AT THE PANTRY

Thirteen dedicated volunteers showed up at My Sister's Pantry on Saturday, February 28th. Those included: Charlotte Brooke (friend of UCUP), Glenn Campbell (friend of the Lehmann's), Ruth Cannon, Fran Cash, Wes Davis, Renee Gillard, Ardie Herbel, Kathleen Kenna, Doris Larson, Lou & Margie Lehmann, Pat Mail, and Carol Shogreen. Many blessings and thanks to these people.

What do we do at the pantry? The jobs include filling grocery orders, distributing groceries, handing out fresh produce, staffing the clothing bank, providing coffee and water, helping prepare and serving meals, letting guests know when their order is filled, and numerous other small tasks.

This time the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department provided nurses to give free vaccinations for hepatitis B&C, influenza, and pneumonia. Preventive medicine is the best antidote to getting sick. Approximately 75 families came to get groceries and a warm meal. This is fewer than normal, but the pantry was also open the previous Monday evening so some families already had the food they needed.

UCUP has been helping at the pantry for many years, and helps staff about 2-3 times a year. The guests are grateful for the food, smiles and a kind word. Join us next time you hear we will be working at My Sister's Pantry. A great way to give back to our community.

Pat Mail

Brown Baggers Bible Study and Luncheon Group begins a new study on April 6th. The new study is on the book Jezebel. Please join us every Wednesday from Noon to 2pm.

APRIL 24, 2016
AFTER CHURCH FORUM AND POTLUCK

The Peace & Justice Group is sponsoring a Fourth Sunday Forum which will include a potluck lunch.



Following lunch, Rev. Cathi Cline will give a presentation on the year she spent in Kenya from 2010 to 2011. Cathi lived in the village of Allendu in western Kenya and volunteered with the Rafiki Africa Foundation. While there she started a woman's group to teach the skills needed to better support their families.



Bring a dish to share (perhaps an African recipe you've been wanting to try) and hear about her adventure and enjoy the slide presentation.

Please join us!
Dorothy McCuistion



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Submitted by Ardie Herbel

**HELP WANTED THIS SEPTEMBER for a Volunteer Coordinator
for Family Housing Network**

The job you will learn to love is easier than you might think! Most of the work is done from your home on computer and on the phone. Your job will be to oversee the Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets, remind volunteers of their assignments and what their duties require. You will check in from time to time when the families are here to make sure things are going smoothly and to meet the families. This is the most FUN! You will also need to be available in case someone cannot fulfill their assignment.

Mt. Cross Lutheran Church volunteers and oversees 3 of these days and UCUP volunteers and oversees for 4 days.

Please prayerfully consider this mission. Contact Ardie Herbel 253-495-9312.



Submitted by Robert Brown



The Faith Action Network invites you to look at their website, fanwa.org, periodically to see if there are any actions that we should take regarding legislation.



Since the legislature has been called back for a special session, we might want to e-mail our legislators about how we would have them approach the budget and other issues in flux.

The next time we will formally meet is for sharing sessions (there is a formal name) sometime in May or June.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Submitted by Joyce Demarest

Welcome to new members: Greg Kammann, he joined on February 7th, Allison and Tom Milligan and David and Sheila Higby on March 13th. All five are already busy in the life of United Church. Greg was drafted to lead the study on the Wednesday that Pastor Cathy was away. His wife, Sheila, made one of the soups that evening. Thank you, Sheila. Tom Milligan and Hank Thierry are our new sign changers AND Tom took part in the Palm Sunday performance of Voices From The Passion. Neva Laurie-Berry was the director of Voices we owe her and everyone that took part a big thank you...and Jeff Andersen and the choir. Word has it that on the day he joined, Jim Cash drafted David Higby to join him and Don Thompson on the Facilities Group.



It was good to see Pat and Bob Rudolph able to be out again. Bob recently had surgery to remove a cancerous growth from one of his legs. It was Pat's job to see that Bob kept the leg up the first two weeks following surgery and later that he didn't put any weight on it. Good job Pat, Bob doesn't even have a limp.....Linda Vanderbilt's daughter, Sasha Kaskava, and her husband recently moved to Georgia, being the good mother that she is Linda drove one of their cars across country to their new home for them. Oh, but she wasn't alone, she had Sasha's two dogs with her.

On Sunday, March 13th, Jimmy Bodie invited those present to help him celebrate his birthday during Fellowship time. He even brought cup cakes, that he'd baked (with his Mom's help) for the occasion. Thank you Jimmy.....we also celebrated Helen Engle's 90th Birthday with a cake during fellowship time.....a number of people must have said THANK YOU to Ellen Davis



April 2016

4 Sara Davis
12 Danielle Dimmerman-18yrs
13 Emma Berry – 3yrs
Kyle Gillard
Isla Weber – 5yrs
14 Mollie Chaffee
Terry Gibson
Don Thompson
17 Yvonne Begeman
23 Ardie Herbel
26 Lenord Tudor – 10yrs

when on a very rainy Sunday she greeted them with
her umbrella as they got out of their cars, walked them
as far as the bridge before she ran out to greet someone else.
Our sympathy to the Rev. Troy Strong and his family on
the death of his wife, Helen. Troy was an interim minister at United Church from November '88 until July '89. Both he and Helen were very active in the church life while they were with us.
Keep Pastor Cathy and Angie Wolle in your prayers as
they settle into their new home..... Angie's sister, Star,
who was hospitalized shortly after arriving in Tacoma
with pneumonia for our members that have a hard
time getting out: Yvonne Begeman, Michael Marcoe,
Joan Martin, Mildred Seales and Donna Shoe.....

Remember.....

We're United with God,

United to Love,

and United to Serve Others

Prior to Introit



Palm Sunday

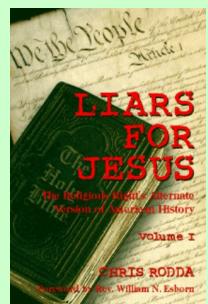
Palm Procession



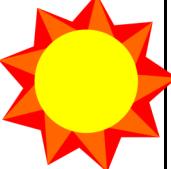
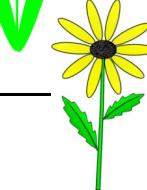
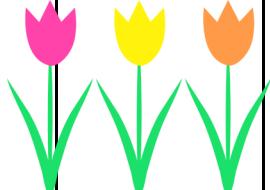
LIARS FOR JESUS

Historian Chris Rodda (2006) explores the Christian Right's (CR) alternative version of American history. Authors for the CR take statements from various sources and misconstrue them to support their desires for a "Christian Nation." These misconstructions are then published in "history" texts for use with home schooled youth. Examples include the statement that "the very first act of Congress authorizing the printing of 20,000 Bibles for the Indians" and that "Congress founded the American Bible Society." These and other assertions are to prove that the Founders of the United States were determined that America be a Christian Nation. Rodda disproves these assertions by a careful study of original documents. The refutation is detailed and a little plodding, but fascinating. For more information, see Rodda's website <www.liarsforjesus.com>.

Submitted by
Pat Mail



April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
3	4 5pm SPR Mtg	5 10am Cong. Care Noon P&J 1pm ALZ Group	6 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group New Book "Jezebel"	7 6:30pm Finance Mtg. 7:30pm Choir	8 	9
10 	11 6:30pm Board Mtg	12 	13 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	14 7:30pm Choir	15 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night	16 
17 		19 	20 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	21 7:30pm Choir 	22 Earth Day	23 
24 11:30am Potluck & Sunday Forum	25 		27 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	28 7:30pm Choir	29 UCC Annual Conference Thru May 1st In Wenatchee	30

Every Sunday – 10am Worship Service
10:15am Elementary & Youth Sunday School

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April 1, 2016

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University Place**
3912 Grandview Dr W
University Place, WA
98466



Weekly

Sundays

10am Worship Service
With Rev. Cathlynn Law
10:15am Elementary Sunday
School (4yrs to 11yrs)
10:15am Youth Sunday School
(12yrs & 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**