

May 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

Communion stewards in our community

In our church community we have about 6-10 people who have been a part of our regular worshiping community, but are no longer physically able to attend worship most Sundays.

The Congregational Care Committee would like to ensure that our members receive communion and regular connection with UCUP each month. If you would be interested in taking communion to some of our folks and visiting with them, please let Pastor Cathy know. Once people have expressed interest, we will set up a training time.

This summer, Jennie McQuillan & Pastor Cathy will be leading a Mission Trip to Portland with three youth: Addy & Tanner Harding, and Meredith Young.

Anwen Young will be heading to church camp. They need to hold a few fundraisers to help pay their way this summer. We are looking at holding a car wash Memorial Day weekend, either on Saturday or Sunday. If you are available and would like to pitch in to help these kids go on a Mission trip and camp, let Pastor Cathy know. Look for firmer details in the Sunday bulletin or an all church email.



A Look Ahead

Details on pgs. 4 & 5



**Apr 25th – Jun 25th—Imagine No Malaria Campaign
(previously called “Nothing but Nets”)**

May 1st - May 8th—Signup to buy your Red Geraniums for Pentecost Worship

May 5th—National Day of Prayer



**May 8th – Jun 19th—Jamaa Letu - Pocket Change Donations for
Hope for the Children of Africa**



May 15th—Celebrate Pentecost with Fire Colors

May 15th—FAITH ACTION NETWORK Annual Spring Summit



Jun 19th—Strawberry Festival



From Pastor Cathy

United Church in University Place became a church representing two different denominations 46 years ago. Here are some of the important events happening on the national front for both these denominations. From April 29th - May 1st, I will be attending the United Church of Christ's PNW Annual Meeting in Wenatchee with Neil & Norma Rader, and Rev. Cathi Cline. For United Methodists, General Conference (which occurs every four years in the same year as the Presidential election) will be held in Portland, Oregon from May 10-20. I will be heading to Portland for some of the activities at General Conference May 12-13.

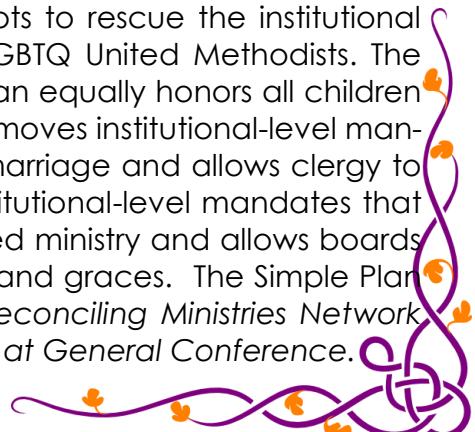
UCC on GUN VIOLENCE - The United Church of Christ has long advocated for sensible, responsible policies to end gun violence. In 1995, the General Synod passed three resolutions dealing with guns and violence. This May, the church is amplifying the call for change, encouraging advocacy around stricter gun laws. The initiative will encourage churches to participate in the Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath sponsored by Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence scheduled for December 14-18th.

UCC on FOSSIL FUELS - In time to celebrate Earth Day, United Church Funds has widened its investment in global corporations — while avoiding companies that produce oil, coal or gas— to meet the desires of investors, and to work toward meeting a General Synod 2013 resolution that urges divestment, along with other strategies, from fossil fuel companies to combat climate change. The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, United Church of Christ general minister and president, encourages more settings of the denomination to consider investing in a sustainable future. Before international expansion, the Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund only invested in the largest U.S. companies, while avoiding companies that produce oil, coal or gas. UCF also created the Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund, which combines the U.S.-based Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund, international stocks, and U.S. fixed income (bonds) to make it easy for churches and institutions to diversify their investments. The Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund launched in August 2014 with \$20 million in seed money, and now has more than \$50 million in investments.

UMC General Conference - CLIMATE CHANGE On Thursday, May 12, 2016 (7:30PM @ Oregon Convention Center Plaza in Portland) there will be a Climate Vigil for anyone who wants to participate. The General Conference Climate Vigil is gathering prayers from United Methodists who grieve the ways climate change is already impacting creation, and who yearn to protect all of God's good earth from its worst impacts. Vigil participants will carry paper lanterns lit by small LED lights. The vigil will include music and testimony from United Methodists around the world sharing their experiences on the front lines of climate change. People are invited to create and decorate lanterns for vigil participants to carry. If you are interested in creating a lantern, talk to Pastor Cathy for more information.

UMC Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) - There are many proposals coming before the 2016 General Conference regarding the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer (LGBTQ) persons in the UMC. At their root, all of these proposals are attempts to rescue the institutional church from 40+ years of discriminatory harm committed against LGBTQ United Methodists. The Plan that RMN is supporting is called the "Simple Plan". The Simple Plan equally honors all children of God – children of all sexual orientations and gender identities. It removes institutional-level mandates that prohibit ministry with same-sex couples seeking Christian marriage and allows clergy to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Simple Plan removes institutional-level mandates that prohibit equal treatment of LGBTQ persons who are called to ordained ministry and allows boards of ordained ministry to consider each candidate based on their gifts and graces. The Simple Plan removes the discriminatory language from the *Book of Discipline*. Reconciling Ministries Network encourages all delegates to join together for the passage of this plan at General Conference.

Serving with you in the greater love of Christ,
Pastor Cathy



UCUP GIVES (& GIVES & GIVES) submitted by Pat Mail

Many thanks to all of our generous and caring church members who first responded to the giving tree, fulfilling its requests to help people moving into apartments without all the stuff needed. Then members of the congregation went on to fulfill requests for World Relief, completing who kits for refugee families with necessary supplies for kitchen, bathrooms, children & babies, etc. You are all amazing. You dig deep and find in your heart and wallet many ways to help others. You are blessed, and we are blessed to have you in our church family. Thank you.



UCC ONA Survey

The Peace and Justice Cluster participated in a survey distributed by the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. This was meant as a self-evaluation tool for congregations to determine paths on which the O&A journey can continue. We were pleased that UCUP could answer positively to most of the questions. But there were 2 which we felt needed further discussion and work.

The first was a way to display our declaration of being open and affirming and reconciling to the community. The other was in the area of transgender issues.

We felt that as a congregation we would benefit with some education and discussion on how we can be more welcoming to the transgender community. We will be discussing both of these issues at our May meeting. Any input would be welcome.

Cathi Cline for Peace & Justice Cluster



I attended a meeting of District Coordinators on a recent Wednesday. We were told about several successes we had in the review of the legislative year. There was much to cheer; however, there is much more to accomplish.

Looking forward, on May 15, FAN will host its meeting to focus on the legislative agenda going forward. At this meeting last year, we worked as legislative district teams to decide on the issues we felt were most important and needed addressing, and then as a whole group to decide on which issues were the most important. Through this effort, Faith Action Network worked on the details and adopted its agenda for this year. I expect the process will be similar for next year. I invite you to this meeting if you would like a voice in FAN's legislative agenda.



This meeting is scheduled for 3:00-5:00 PM at the First Baptist Church in Seattle. Talk to me if you are interested in participating; there is no charge for this event.

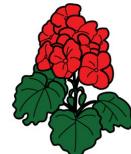
Respectfully submitted,
Robert Brown



A Look Ahead

Imagine No Malaria - (previously called "Nothing but Nets") - Apr 25th – Jun 25th

For the past three years, United Methodists in the Pacific Northwest have been supporting the work of [Imagine No Malaria](#), and together we've raised over a million dollars. Malaria's death rate among African children has been reduced by 70% since we started this journey. An anonymous donor is offering to match donations (up to \$75k) between April 25th (World Malaria Day) and June 25th so that we EXCEED our goal! For those who would like to contribute please write check to UCUP: Imagine No Malaria in the memo.



Geraniums for Pentecost Worship – May 1st - May 8th

UCUP has had a tradition of brightening our sanctuary with red geraniums on Pentecost. The worship and adornment committee will be decorating the sanctuary with as many geraniums as individuals in the congregation purchase. You are invited to take home your geraniums following worship on Pentecost, May 15th. A sign-up sheet will be in the entry way until May 8th. Talk to Norma Rader for more information.



National Day of Prayer – May 5th

Join the Westside Church Network for the National Day of Prayer event for University Place/Fircrest at the University Place Town Center Commons from 4:30-5:30 on Tuesday, May 5th.



Jamaa Letu - Hope for the Children of Africa - May 8th – Jun 19th

Jamaa Letu Orphanages are a project of The Pacific Northwest Conference and The South Congo Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church.

Each year we have an opportunity to donate our pocket change toward the ministry of the boys and girls orphanages in the DR Congo where 70 children and teens receive care. You are invited to take a label found in the entry way, and glue it on a jar to collect pocket change. Donations will support operating expenses, such as food, clothing, school fees, utilities and salaries for the staff. Bring your jars back by June 19th. For more information, check out their website. www.jamaaletu.org

Celebrate Pentecost on May 15th with Fire Colors

Everyone is invited to wear "fire" colors on May 15th to symbolize the "tongues of fire" descending on the people.

Pentecost is considered the day on which the Christian church began. Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit 50 days after Jesus' resurrection and gathering his early followers as a church. Historically, Christians borrowed the word Pentecost (meaning 50th day) from Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to a Jewish holiday, known as the Festival of Weeks, (Shavuot in Hebrew). Leviticus 23:16 instructs people to count seven weeks or "fifty days" from the end of Passover to the beginning of the next holiday, the Harvest Festival.



The many languages spoken by the early followers of Jesus were understood by thousands of Jewish pilgrims who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Shavuot. If anyone would like to add another language as we pray the Lord's Prayer that day, let Pastor Cathy know. Additional languages will add to our celebration.

A Look Ahead

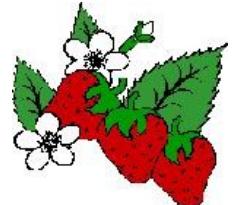
FAITH ACTION NETWORK Annual Spring Summit – May 15th



UCUP supports the work of FAN, and we would like to have representation at their upcoming annual Spring Summit, which will be held at First Baptist Church (1111 Harvard Ave Seattle) on Sunday, May 15th from 3-5 PM. There will be conversation about how our legislative agenda fared during the past session and plan for the rest of the year. They are also hoping to establish work groups around specific issues: i.e. economic justice, criminal justice, the environment, and health care. Contact Robert Brown if you are interested in attending. He is happy to organize a carpool.

Strawberry Festival – Jun 19th

Our amazing choir and music director Jeff Andersen will be hosting the much acclaimed Strawberry Festival once again on June 19th. Fresh Puyallup Valley strawberries and musical entertainment provided by members of our choir. Stay tuned for exact time Sunday evening.



Oh the Places You Will Go!

Save the date!
June 19 2016

We will celebrating GRADUATES From high school , college and end.....

Mission Potluck

Many thanks to the Peace and Justice team for organizing a wonderful mission potluck on April 24th. We are grateful to Rev. Cathi Cline for presenting a slide show on her mission work and ministry with Rafiki Women for Rafiki Africa Foundation in Kosele, Kenya. Cathi started a woman's group to teach the skills to support their families.

Dorothy McCuistion, who chairs our Peace & Justice team said "We need regular reminders of the tremendous wealth we have in securing our basic needs compared to so many people in the world. Specific examples from someone who has actually spent time there and knows people by name, makes it even more real to us."

Over 50 people joined in for the potluck and program, and raised \$225 for the Rafiki Africa Foundation. Good work, all!

If you missed the opportunity, there is still time if you wish to make a donation.



Disaster Relief

Our prayers are with the Japan & Ecuador, two countries suffering from recent Earthquakes.

If you would like to lend financial support, our UCC Emergency Relief Fund & UM Committee on Relief (UMCOR) are both involved in aiding disaster areas.

Please make check payable to UCUP with earthquake in memo.

Fun In Church submitted by Pat Mail

We are raised believing Jesus loves and God is stern. So what's with our Sunday services where laughter echoes off the walls, fish fly into nets, and instead of call-and-response, we get off-the-cuff comments from the choir and congregation! It may not say in the Bible or other Christian texts that it's OK to laugh, but a careful reading of the "good book" lets us know God indeed had a sense of humor. It is not disrespectful to comment if sermons are thought-provoking. Church is a place for instruction, reflection, and contemplation, and yes, laughter. There are so many ways to worship, to explore and to grow. When we share laughter, food, conversation, or just a hug, we share the love God teaches us. Welcome the new faces in our midst, and let them know we find joy in worship and in involvement.



Fun
in
Church!



FISH?



Sunday
School



May 2016

- 1 Dorothy Burkhart
- 6 Nancy Rickett
- 9 Gail Simpson
- 12 Wes Davis
- 13 Sam(antha) Burhop
- 14 Levi Vanderbilt
- 15 Lynne Jenks-Dudschus
- 22 Donna Shoe
- 24 Truman Bjarke (14yrs)
- 28 Dan Morgan
- 30 Nancy Davis

May 2016

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 UCC Conf Ends 	2 May Day 5pm SPR Mtg	3 10am Cong. Care 1pm ALZ Group	4 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	5 7:30pm Choir Noon P & J at YWCA	6 	7 <i>April Showers Bring May Flowers</i>
8 Mothers Day Last Day of our Giving Tree	9 6:30pm Board Mtg	10	11 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	12 7:30pm Choir	13	14 
15 Pentecost 3-5 FAN Spring Sum- mit at First Baptist in Seattle 	16	17	18 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	19 7:30pm Choir	20 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night	21 Armed Forces Day
22 	23	24	25 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	26 7:30pm Choir	27	28 
29 	30 	31				

Church Contact

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 Nursery Attendant: Rosie Schultz

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Newsletter
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May 1, 2016

**United Church In
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**