

June 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

SAVE THESE SUMMER FUN DATES!

JUNE 4TH DUCK DAZE PARADE

Walk with us as we participate in the parade holding our new church UCUP banner! We will meet at 9:30am—9:45am at the parade starting line!



JUNE 12TH CARWASH FROM 10AM-2:30PM

Get your car washed while you worship and support our youth raise money for summer camp! If you can help out with the carwash, let Pastor Cathy know.



JUNE 19TH STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AT 5:30PM



Our amazing choir and music director Jeff Andersen will be hosting the much acclaimed Strawberry Festival once again. Fresh Puyallup Valley strawberries and musical entertainment provided by members of our choir.

JUNE 26 - BAKE SALE



Volunteer to bring baked goods or other delectable's to help our youth raise Money to go on the mission trip. Talk to Cathy or Jennie if you can help.

JULY 21 BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, UCUP CAMP LITE 6-8PM

It is an inter-generational snack supper, followed by the 2016 UCUP Summer Water Olympics, followed by a campfire and s'mores and songs.



AUGUST 13-14 OVERNIGHT CAMPING TRIP



An all ages overnight camping trip to Penrose Point State Park. Details to follow.

IT'S TIME FOR CHURCH SUMMER CAMP!

United Church in University Place has a long tradition of supporting individual and family church camp participation, by providing camp scholarships! And 2016 has quite a line up of great opportunities.

Some camps are for a few days, some for a whole week. Some are for elementary school children, some for teens, some for whole families. Indianola is in the Puget Sound, Lazy F is west of Ellensburg, Ocean Park is near the Pacific Ocean, and Twinlow is in northern Idaho, Pilgrim Firs is outside of Port Orchard and the gem, N-Sid-Sen is on Lake Coeur d'Alene! You should go look at the websites (UMC) www.pnwcamps.org and (UCC) www.pncucc.org or check out the flyers in the narthex. There are early bird specials for early registration! Most importantly, pick up a "Campership" application for up to \$150 toward camp registration, at the table outside of the sanctuary and leave it with Lynne in the office and the Faith and Spiritual Growth Cluster will get back to you in a jiffy! For more information, you can call Ellen at 253-566-0944.



From Pastor Cathy

It's been a whirlwind two weeks as 864 United Methodist delegates and thousands of other folks gathered for General Conference 2016 in Portland, OR. I wasn't planning on attending, but given the proximity, and the fact that General Conference occurs once every four years, not to mention being swept up in a radical "coming out" in solidarity with 111+ GLBTQI United Methodist clergy in a "Love Letter" to the United Methodist Church and General Conference Delegates, I found myself in Portland. Angie & I both signed the letter to shine a light on how many of "us" are already serving in ministry, in spite of and in the midst of restrictive language that has been in and continues to remain in the Book of Discipline.

It was an unprecedented act that could possibly result in church trial, lost jobs, and revoked ordination. The letter states: "We are coming out as GLBTQI clergy. We want you to know we still love the church and seek to remain in relationship. Even if you seek more restrictive language against GLBTQI persons, know that God will continue to move mysteriously in the hearts of GLBTQI young people and adults and will call them to serve within this denomination. You cannot legislate against God's call. We come out to provide hope for GLBTQI young people. These young people are more at risk for suicide than their peers, in part, because of the condemnation they hear from the pulpits and pews of their churches. We come out to remind them that God's love for them is immeasurable, and offers them a love that will never let them go, even when it feels like the church is willing to let them go. While some of us have been lucky to serve in places where we could serve honestly and openly, there are others in places far more hostile, who continue to serve faithfully even at tremendous cost to themselves, their families, and yes, even the communities they serve, who do not receive the fullness of their pastor's gifts because a core part must remain hidden."

And so, I found myself in Portland two different times during the 12-day gathering. Once for the Climate Vigil hosted by members of PNW, and a concert by the Indigo Girls to benefit Reconciling Ministries Network. Last Wednesday, I drove back to Portland to participate in a silent witness for the Shower of Stoles project - a display of stoles of clergy who were defrocked or were not able to be ordained due to orientation; and to stand in solidarity with 45 of the 111+ signers outside the Oregon Convention Center, as delegates had to file past our silent witness in order to get through the doors. We then paraded on to the floor of General Conference and continued our silent witness. Outside the plenary floor we gathered in a circle singing: "Jesu, we are here, Jesu, we are here for you."

I am thankful to serve in a conference with a supportive bishop and cabinet. I am grateful to Bishop Grant Hagiya for being one of 28 bishops to sign a letter in support of LBGTQ Clergy. And I am beyond grateful for my appointment to UCUP, to serve in a place of radical hospitality and acceptance, a place of deep compassion and serving up social justice at every turn. While General Conference was disappointing in many ways, I have hope for our local congregation.

Continued.....

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Below is an excerpt from Bishop Elaine Stanovsky's sermon to the General Conference on May 20th. Bishop Stanovsky is from the PNW.

"The Church is of God, but it is not God. We have to keep the Church in its proper perspective. It's easy to become disoriented at General Conference. After so many days in this dazzling global community, spectacular worship, giant projection screens - it's easy to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think (Romans 12:3), and to imagine that what we do here is Gospel. But it is not. We have done the best we could, but we have inevitably "erred, and strayed...like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.



Having worked with descendants of the Sand Creek Massacre for six years, I live with a constant and sobering awareness of the capacity of the Church to choose death over LIFE, and to convince itself that it is doing the will of God when it serves up death time and again. At this General Conference what looks like life to some of us, has the stench of death to others. Our life experiences, the cultures we come from, are so very different, that what is blessed by some among us is cursed by others. We curse what we do not understand. And as long as we are thinking the worst of one another, or protecting ourselves against the curses of others, there is no blessing and we will not be a church that follows Jesus. We will be stuck. All of us. In an empty tomb. Or we may wander, aimlessly.

Jesus recognized that powers and principalities (Eph 6:12), even in the Church, will sacrifice life for order. The gatekeepers of the Church will wring the life right out of Jesus if necessary. They will put the grace and mercy of Jesus 'where the sun don't shine' if they have to. They will send guards, and pass bans to keep us from learning to love one another as Christ has loved us; to keep heaven from invading the Church with life in forms they are not prepared to receive. And they will punish people who follow Jesus out of the tomb and into ministry.

If only we were certain who "they" are. "They" might be us. We might be "them." We are all subject to the same failings. The Good News is that God is better than the Church. God's love and grace and forgiveness, God's welcome and blessing are not controlled by the General Conference."





From The President



I am so impressed with this congregation. In the past two months, we have celebrated Easter with two services, committed to have three of our youth go on a mission trip, committed to starting confirmation classes with at least two students, kept up with two Sunday School groups, met our financial obligations with room to spare, held two successful and well-attended Fourth Sunday Forums (one with a potluck lunch), celebrated Earth Day on two separate Sundays, attended events with Faith Action Network, went to Mima Mounds on Prairie Appreciation Day, financed two shares of solar powered panels sponsored by the city of Tacoma, and celebrated Pentecost with a colorful sanctuary with lots of red geraniums!. We are a group whose mission seems to know no bounds, and it is great to be part of such an active church.

Our next event is Duck Daze. I hope there are several of us who are planning to walk behind our new banner on Saturday, June 4. I am planning to be there, and I would love to have a large contingent.

Your church board is working on solidifying our constitution. After our work is complete to our satisfaction, it will be brought to the entire congregation for approval. We are also spending time at meetings reviewing our 14-month plan developed in October, 2015, and approved in January. We have completed several of the action items and are working on others. We are also updating and renewing the lease agreement with our partners at the Narrows Coop Preschool. Each committee is now reporting their activities at the board meetings, so we feel like our communication is improving. If you serve on a committee or cluster which does not have a board member, please commit to sending one of your members to the board meeting each month. Of course, everyone is welcome at all board meetings, which are scheduled for the second Monday of each month at 6:30 P.M.

I appreciate everyone. This place is love.
Robert Brown



JARS FOR JAMAA LETU - HOPE FOR THE CHILDREN OF AFRICA

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. Its not too late to start saving your change! Just take a label from the table 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



**GRADUATION
CELEBRATION SUNDAY!**
JUNE 19, 2016

We will honor our graduates and their families! We are so excited for our graduates and we will acknowledge them briefly during the worship service and will honor them during our Fellowship Time. If you have a loved one who graduated from high school, college or beyond, we would like to recognize their achievements as well. Please send an email to Ellen at wesellendavis@msn.com by June 14 (with the spelling of the name, location, and degree/diploma).



Oh the Places You Will Go!

Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes

You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.

You're on your own. And you know what you know.

And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go!

GRADUATES IN THE UCUP CONGREGATION

Danielle Dimmerman, (daughter of Ron and Cathy Dimmerman) is a 2016 high school graduate.

Rosie Schultz, (daughter of Sherry) is a graduate of Henry Foss High School and will be attending Seattle University in the fall.

Kaia Bjarke (daughter of Chris and Dawn Bjarke, grand daughter of Win Bjarke) graduates from Hazen High School and will be attending her dad's alma mater, Western Washington University in the fall.



Peter Schilling (son of Chuck Schilling and Laura Giddings) received a BS in Mechanical Engineering cum laude, with a minor in Spanish at the College of Engineering, Kilachard Honors College, Boston University

Ben Small is receiving his PhD.

CELEBRATING OTHER GRADUATES IN OUR EXTENDED FAMILIES!

Jamie Steckler (great grandchild of Mary Jones) is graduating from Curtis HS in UP.

Scott Parent (son of Rosemary Jones) is graduating with a BS in Information Technology from Washington Governors University.

Emily Bjarke (grand daughter of Win Bjarke) is graduating with a BS in Biology from University of Puget Sound and has been accepted for a 5th year Teaching degree at Seattle University.

Ryan Demarest (grandson of Joyce Demarest) is graduating from Loyola High School in Los Angeles CA and will be attending Baylor University, in Texas in the fall.

Joe Munn (Grandson of Allen and Kathy Munn) is graduating from University of Washington with a BS in Informatics.

Kate Dawson (Niece of Wes and Ellen Davis) is graduating with a BS in Accounting and Finance suma cum laude from Virginia Tech.

Jack Dawson (Nephew of Wes and Ellen Davis) is a 2016 graduate of Oakton HS, VA and has been accepted to the School of Engineering at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Submitted by Kathryn Munn

May Day fell on Sunday this year--and what fun to be welcomed by a May Pole as we entered the church. Thank you, Janet Wicks! We all enjoyed Nancy Moffett's annual pie party on Sunday in honor of her Dad's birthday. Dan was one of those "Go-to -Guys" in our earlier church life--he knew how to repair things and did beautiful woodworking. And if we didn't know before that Pat Rudolph is a pro at cutting and serving pie, we know it now--

Please congratulate Pat Mail for her award: "The Volunteer of the Year!" at Toby Jones where she lives. Not only does she volunteer her time there, but she volunteers and is a part of "All UCUP!" Congrats and thank you Pat, for all you do!

Who knew that skate boards fell from the sky? Pastor Cathy does now--and we are happy that her hand is healing quickly. And we hope that Don Thompson's shoulder is too, after a fall from a ladder!

Have you noticed (well, actually we notice it less, just as planned) the newly painted coat closet in the narthex? Kudos to the committee members!

We hope all the dinner groups have as much fun as ours did getting better acquainted around the table last week--our next one is already scheduled!

Jim Cash is in our prayers after he became seriously ill out on the golf course this week. We think especially of Roger Martin on the recent death of his step mother. And we think especially of those folk we don't see often-- Mildred Seales, Dorothy Burkhart, Randi Byrd, Michael Marcoe, and Betty Smith.

VOLUNTEER WATERING

*Team Inch by inch, row by row
Gonna make our garden grow ...
(And all it takes is gravity flow-)*



AND someone to get the water from the rain barrel to the plants.



We need to recruit two or three people to water the planters on the walkway. In the hot summer months they dry out quickly and need watering every other day. If you can help with this please sign up and we'll coordinate a schedule of convenient alternate days for our team of volunteers. Thank-You



June 2016

A belated
Happy Birthday
to Christine Long (April 21)

- 1 Ruth Cannon
- 2 Ben Small
- 3 Alta Mae Westgaard
- 6 Marilyn Buck
- 8 Wesley Berry – 6 yrs
- 10 Brooke Taylor - 19yrs
- 14 Mary Jones
- 18 Shirley Paulson
- 21 Kristoffer Bjarke – 20yrs
- 22 Fran Cash
- 22 Don Morgan
- 24 Laura Giddings
- 30 Cindy Bodie
- 30 Harry Garrison



TRAVELING WITH THE BJARKE FAMILY

The camera lens captured every adventure. And the photos are extraordinary. Take time to view the wall art in the Orchard View Room over the next two months; you'll have a chance to travel the world with Winnie & Nels.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGNUPS

Our Summer Sunday School starts **Sunday, June 19th**. We will have a VOLUNTEER TEACHER sign up sheet at the round table for volunteers to select ONE SUMMER SUNDAY to teach a multiage group ages 4-11 years (there is still nursery school too). There is a drawer labeled "Summer Sundays" in the library and folders with a whole Sunday School lesson, and volunteers can just pick a lesson of their choosing. Then, sign up on the sheet. If you read over the lesson and want to do an activity or craft, contact Lynne in the office, Ellen Davis or Rosemary Jones, to help you find supplies! The FSG or SPR will contact you about completing our Safe Sanctuary paperwork.



Faith Action Network held its annual spring summit at First Baptist Church in Seattle on Sunday, May 15. Leslie Ann Knight and Robert Brown attended from our church. We both came away believing that it is wonderful to have so many people willing to work on societal problems here in Washington. This meeting was quite different from the meeting I attended last year at this time in that we were, this year, separated into interest groups rather than legislative district groups. I found the conversation at my table stimulating because we were to take a deep dive into an issue and come up with solutions. Since my table's topic was income/wealth inequality, I felt I had a lot to say. Some of what I had to say was supported by documents the leaders of the group came with. This was represented by charts and graphs showing our state's tax effects on people in different income groups. Leslie Ann worked with another group. The groups were basically in the same arenas that were our foci last year: human trafficking/slavery, societal safety from guns, environment, income/wealth inequality, and housing and homelessness.

A lot was accomplished and work groups were formed for further defining the problems and seeking solutions. If you would like to serve on a work group, let Faith Action Network know by contacting them at fanwa.org or 206-625-9790. I don't believe there is a limit on any of these work groups. Further, our work in these group lightens the load on Faith Action Network's staff.

This seemed to be a very productive meeting. We also celebrated FAN's fifth birthday with cake. This meeting was the first of four summit meetings around the state. The other three will be in Vancouver, Yakima area (I think it's in Toppenish), and Spokane, with our next meeting in September.



Respectfully submitted,
Robert Brown





PRAYER CHAIN

Do you make a habit of praying regularly? Or just reflect on individuals who were mentioned in our service who are having a tough time? You may be interested in joining the prayer chain. You will get occasional emails with a list of individuals asking for prayers. Just reading through the requests for prayers constitutes a sort of prayer because God knows you're focusing and paying attention. When several people at once focus on the names, this builds a sort of "prayer consciousness" that reaches out. As a former pastor used to say, "Prayer is powerful, and prayer works!" So, if you would like to join the chain, give Pat Mail your email and that's it! You'll be plugged into the prayer chain. And prayer never hurts - and who knows, it could help. And for those experiencing loss, it provides comfort. Give it a try. Not for you? We'll take your name off the chain. Praying for your fellow church family members is another way we care for one another.

Blessings,
Pat Mail



WORLD RELIEF SEATTLE

Dear members of UCUP - we are blessed to give and blessed to receive. Your generous donations of the household items for refugees coming into western WA, through the shepherding by World Relief, have been delivered. The wall of photographs are celebration of clients who have found work -- a part of their journey in coming to the US. Thank you to those who donated gifts of money. For more information on opportunities to be informed, volunteer and donate time, talent and treasure see: <http://worldreliefseattle.org> Thank you again for your inspiring love of community. Peace and Justice Committee.

JUNE 30TH, 2016

Attend a showing of

"An Act of Love"

at The Grand

Info: thomas_martin.77@aol.com

United Methodist Pastor, Frank Shaeffer, felt called to honor the request of his son to be united in marriage to his son's gay partner. He was punished by his Bishop and Church law by having his credentials and ordination removed. His story is told in the film, "An Act of Love." It will be shown at 6:30 PM on June 30th at The Grand Cinema in Tacoma, WA. under the sponsorship of several United Methodist Churches. Tickets are \$10.



Our May Pole



Sacred Dancers



PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UCC ANNUAL MEETING

I was privileged to be elected by the congregation as a delegate to the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. And I thank United Church for providing me with this opportunity. The meeting was held April 29 through May 1 in Wenatchee.

First, going to Wenatchee allowed me to see a part of Washington in which I had, as yet, not been. And, while the drive over was gray and rainy, the weather was beautiful the rest of the weekend. And I had the chance to enjoy the view of the mountains and the river valley, the apple trees and the meadows of blue lupine. Beautiful!

While each conference in the UCC formats their meetings differently, they all are comprised of inspirational worship, learning opportunities, and conducting the business of the conference. While I am used to meeting and greeting old friends at these meetings, here the only people I knew were Norma and Neil Rader and Pastor Cathy. But this will not be true at future meetings because church people are generally a friendly bunch and I met a lot of new people whom I hope will become friends over the years.

I was able to attend two workshops. The first was on economic justice and a network of interested persons and congregations being formed in the PNC. I borrowed a film on the issue and I hope that we will have an opportunity to view it as a congregation sometime this summer. The second workshop was entitled "White Congregations and Black Power: Moving towards racial justice through reconciliation and reparations." This was a powerful workshop, providing some challenging ideas about what it means to be a predominantly white congregation in a racially diverse world and how we can better understand our role in the racial divides of society. From this workshop I brought back a list of movies and books that would help us in this effort. The Peace & Justice Committee will be discussing how these can best be shared with the congregation.

Besides the usual voting on a budget and electing new officers and board members, the highlight of the business meetings, for me, was the vote to accept a new congregation into the PNC. Feagaiga Fou (New Testament) UCC, and American Samoan congregation from Anchorage, Alaska, was joyfully accepted into full membership of the conference. Listening to their stories and their joyful song of praise, gave me chills and a gratitude for this inclusive church where "no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here" and where it is recognized that God is still speaking, even in Samoan. This congregation brings the gifts, not only of strong faith, but also of challenge to the rest of us to broaden our understanding of the world and its fantastic breadth of diversity.

Thank you, again, to UCUP for giving me the opportunity to attend this gathering of the many churches of the Pacific Northwest Conference.

Rev. Cathi Cline



PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The UCUP May benevolence of \$300 was hand delivered during a site visit to the YWCA Pierce County, Washington State's first emergency shelter for adults and children for victims of domestic violence began in 1976. Over 11,000 adults and children are served annually. Lives are "transformed through safety, healing and empowerment." Empowerment means listening and not fixing and not saying as many of us reason, "Why doesn't she just leave?" The roots and snares of domestic violence do require a village of caring individuals and trauma-informed professionals. It bears stating the



YWCA's mission is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. P&J members with Pastor Cathlynn Law toured the administrative, counseling, youth club and infant/toddler/and children's play units and programs. The top floor houses the impressive "engine" of legal services and staff. This refurbishment fell under the Encore Campaign along with the children's program upgrade.

The ninety-day shelter was moved and expanded after a two-year and \$5 million "Its Time" Campaign (2008-2010) to renovated apartments one block over with extensive local interior designer input. The attention to privacy, space and beauty in a unique environment correlates with the public health paradigm where changing the environment versus directly trying to change behavior works to improve health and wellness. * Families can ease back into a stable and safe home. The Case Manager workload eased when families could be families versus "housed" in the cramped old shelter. Pets are allowed also! Can you imagine what that provides for healing? There is play space for children outside and fantastic Pacific Northwest inspired murals in the walls of the play units.

The committee left with posters that increase public awareness and for victims contain content for accessing the 24-Hour Hotline 253-383-2593 where individuals can speak with an advocate regarding shelter services, safety planning or referrals to community resources. These will be posted in our UCUP bathrooms. One can also email the Crisis line crisis@ywcapiercecounty.org. For volunteer opportunities and donating items information. Any questions or comments see P&J members!

We are grateful to Mariam Barnett, CEO for educating us during the 90-minute visit.











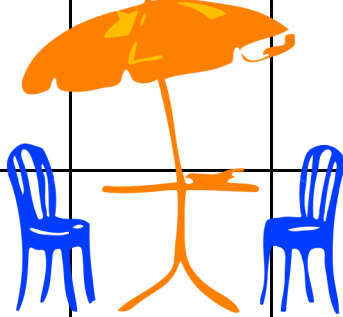
Judy Thierry

The P&J Committee

* An example, one of many public health intervention pyramid models helpful in thinking about complex issues that surround children and their families such as DV. This from Vanderbilt's Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning.

June 2016

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	2 7:30pm Choir Noon P & J at YWCA	3	4 10am Duck Daze Celebration & Parade 
5 	6 5pm SPR Mtg	7 10am Cong. Care 1pm ALZ Group	8 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 6:30pm Finance Mtg.	9 7:30pm Choir	10 	11
12 10am-2:30pm Car Wash 3-5pm Sonoro Choir Matinee performance	13 6:30pm Board Mtg 	14	15 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 5pm FSG Mtg.	16 7:30pm Choir 	17 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night	18
19 Celebrate Our Graduates! Turn in Change Jars 5:30pm Strawberry Festival		21	22 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 	23 7:30pm Choir	24 PNW UMC Annual Conf	25 PNW UMC Annual Conf
26 PNW UMC Annual Conf 11:30 Bake Sale		28	29 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	30 7:30pm Choir 		

Church Contact

(253) 564-2754
office@ucup.org
pastor@ucup.org
www.ucup.org

Church Employees

Rev. Cathlynn Law
Office Admin: Lynne Jenks-Dudschus
Music Director: Jeff Andersen
Nursery Attendant: Rosie Schultz

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

Newsletter

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June 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***