

October 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



Welcome Claire as Our New Nursery Attendant!

We are delighted to announce our newest UCUP staff member, nursery attendant Claire McCarthy. Claire came highly recommended by her former neighbor, Pastor Cathy, and immediately impressed the SPR interview team with her experience, maturity, and positive nature. Claire is a senior at Bellarmine and a dedicated captain of her volleyball team. She's current with her Red Cross / CPR Certification and has completed a babysitting course.

Sunday, Sept. 25th is Claire's first Sunday; please take a minute to welcome her personally - and ask about her dozens of cousins!

If you have any staff and parish-related joys or concerns, please contact Nancy Moffett, Pastor Cathy, or any SPR committee member. All feedback to SPR is confidential.

My Sisters Pantry UCUP Volunteer Day

October 22 from 10am—12:30pm

Please sign up soon! **AND.....**



INVITATION
Join us at the Hub for our

Annual My Sisters Pantry Fundraiser

My Sister's Pantry is a local nonprofit that provides hot meals, groceries and clothing to those in need. Help The Pantry support our community by joining us for our

BINGO, BRATS and BREWS FUNDRAISER

at The HUB on Oct. 5 FROM 6-8PM

RSVP as space is limited - [253-627-1186](tel:253-627-1186)





From Pastor Cathy

Last Sunday afternoon, Robert Brown (UCUP's liaison to Faith Action Network) and I were attending the Tacoma Cluster FAN gathering to attempt to find ways to make our advocacy efforts more effective. In the midst of income inequality, gun violence, lack of Mental Health Programs & Services, increasing homelessness, Rev. Paul Benz, Co-Director of FAN, asked each of us what gives us hope. It didn't take me long to answer the question. I am so humbled and proud to serve in a congregation that not only worships, prays, sings, eats, and plays well with each other, you also put your spirituality and faith into action in so many areas - both as a church working together, and as individuals out in your own neighborhoods and places of work. If I added up all the ways individuals in our church make a lasting and positive difference in the greater community, it would be staggering.

Before attending the FAN Cluster, both Robert & I had just gathered with a dozen or so folks at the church and watched the movie "Inequality for All". Many thanks to Cathi Cline for introducing us to this 2012 documentary examining the widening income inequality in the United States, and how and why that has occurred. The film is presented by American economist, author, professor, and previous Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich. It is well worth watching if you didn't get the opportunity to view it with us.

It was a good follow-up from when Mike Yoder from Associated Ministries came to our church to congratulate UCUP for being one of the top 10 Associated Ministries supporters. He stayed afterward to talk about a plan for Tacoma to provide more housing for those experiencing homelessness. (See Judy Thierry's article in this newsletter).

In the midst of it, as a church we have been setting up, prepping for the families who come to us two times a year from Family Housing Network. From hanging bedroom partitions, making beds, grocery shopping, cooking, playing with children, eating with the families, doing laundry - our church has been offering hospitality to families who have very few places to turn to stay warm, safe and well fed for the night. We may not do it perfectly, and it may not be received perfectly, but what I do know is that it is done with love and the value of our Christian convictions. Of course, this would be the precise week that we discovered the furnace AND the dishwasher were not working, and even then, folks from the church stepped up to handle these inconveniences. More blankets and hands in warm sudsy dishwater to the rescue.

A number of us are also gearing up to either financially support or to put our feet to the ground participating in this year's Hunger Walk happening on October 2nd.

Everywhere I turn, UCUP is up to something - something good. And this indeed gives me hope. And I know, WE ARE NOT ALONE. We are surrounded by so many others who hold social justice synonymous with their faith and values. And best of all, we are held in the net of grace and the loving outstretched arms of a compassionate Creator. May our work be blessed and so be a blessing to all we meet.





From Our President



Our church board met last night (September 19, 2016), and we together decided that more discussion needs to happen before we present the constitution for a vote. We are pleased with the work we have done, but at least a few questions remain in the minds of some congregants who have taken the time to review it. We realized that we members of the board have had ample time with each section of the constitution, but that members have not had this rich time. We believe that it would be constructive to present the constitution at our scheduled meeting after church on October 16, but that the constitution will be under review that day, such that members might ask questions. Since the meeting is scheduled anyway, we may have other issues to bring to your attention, but our thought is to hold off a vote on the constitution until our annual meeting and charge conference in January.

In other board news, we decided to accept a purchase contract for a new copier, rather than continue a lease. This change will happen over the next month, as our lease expires in November. The net effect of purchasing a copier is lower monthly payments. We also are looking to install a front door that will open automatically. We are getting bids for this now, and we already have some in.

We are excited about upcoming events, such as the Pierce County Hunger Walk on October 2, the October 5 Fundraiser for My Sister's Pantry (6:00-8:00 P.M. at The Hub), serving at My Sister's Pantry on October 22, and our upcoming Fourth Sunday Forums, including September 25's showing of Inequality for All.

Thanks for being such a justice-seeking group of people.

Robert



The Faith Action Network is getting busy in the next few months. This Sunday, September 25, we have our Tacoma area summit meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. It is at First United Methodist Church in downtown Tacoma (8th and Tacoma Avenue) from 1:30-3:30. This meeting will bring together people from Pierce County and is intended as informational.

We, at United Church in University Place, are helping to sponsor the 28th Legislative District Candidates' Forum on October 4, 2016. We will have the candidates who are running for office this year here to explain how they respond to the issues that Faith Action Network is interested in. There will be a chance to ask questions from the audience, and there will be a further chance to approach each candidate on an individual basis after the formal questioning ends. This forum begins at 7:00 and ends at 9:00 P.M. Our doors will open at 6:30. I am hoping for some help with refreshments. See me if you are willing.

Finally, on November 20, Faith Action Network will host its annual fund raising dinner. I have not been contacted yet as to the cost of the dinner, but I am hoping several of our members will be willing to attend. This dinner begins at approximately 6:00 and last until 8:00 P.M.

Robert M. Brown—UCUP-FAN Liaison

A Little Something About Our New Nursery Attendant!

My name is Claire McCarthy. I am a senior at Bellarmine Preparatory, the captain of the volleyball team, and plan on studying health sciences in college next year! I love my family, friends, my dog Dugan, and my 1990 Volvo named Betsy. I come from a big Irish family with lots of cousins, so I have a lot of experience caring for younger kids. I am very excited to take on this new role and I can't wait to meet all of you!



"Blessing Our Claire"

Homecoming Brunch a Success

Many thanks to Congregational Care for hosting our Homecoming Brunch this year with a ham, egg-strata, fruit, and lots of muffins. Sixty folks enjoyed the meal and catching up with each other!

Tacoma Studio Tour - October 15th & 16th

2016 marks the 15th anniversary of the Tacoma Studio Tour that will be held at 34 different locations throughout Tacoma. How lucky are we at UCUP that four of the talented artists highlighted on the tour are a part of our church! Dorothy & John McCuistion, Joe Becker, & Adrienne Wicks (daughter of Janet) and other artists will be opening their studios to the public. Go to TacomaArtsMonth.com for more information.

My Sister's Pantry—October 22nd



UCUP will be volunteering at My Sisters Pantry food bank on Sat., Oct. 22nd at First United Methodist Church. Questions -- ask Ruth Cannon, 253-564-3240.

Guest Preacher Rev. Jan Van Pelt Returns to UCUP on October 23rd

Many of you will remember Rev. Jan Van Pelt, one of UCUP's beloved Interim Pastors, who served UCUP from 2010-2011. Jan will be back in the pulpit on October 23rd while Pastor Cathy & Angie are on vacation in Hawaii. Make sure to be in worship that day to welcome her back.

**October is
Breast
Cancer
Awareness
Month**

On Reformation Sunday, 10/30, Pastor Cathy will be back in worship, but there will be another guest preacher that day as we welcome Pastor Paul Ortiz to the pulpit. Paul is a new church planter of Create Commons, a radically inclusive expression of faith. Paul will be videotaping his sermon in order to use it as part of his process seeking ordination as an Elder in the UMC.



Altar Flowers

A great way to Give Back to the Church! Please use the Sign Up Sheet located on the round table in the entrance area. It would be greatly appreciated if everyone participated in the worship service by bring flowers, treats and/or volunteers to be the liturgist.



For All the Saints

All Saints Day November 6th

On Sunday, November 6th, we will be celebrating All Saints' Day in our worship service. We remember those who came before us in the faith. We celebrate their lives, and remember that we are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses".

During the worship service, we will read aloud the names of all church and family members who have passed away since last October 31st.

If you would like your loved one's name to be included in the service, please contact Lynne in the church office by October 24th. During the worship service, there will be a time for you to speak aloud the name of anyone who has impacted your faith, and also light a candle in memory of them.

Thanks,
Pastor Cathy



The current list of names we have are:

Madeline Kalaides—Sister of Win Bjarke
George Marcoe —Brother of Michael marcoe
Don Giddings—Uncle of Laura Giddings
Jim Fohrman Sr.—Father of Jim Fohrman
Marjorie Schilling—Mother of Chuck Schilling
Marian Altes—Past Member
Jenni Cline—Sister inlaw of Cathi Cline
Barbara—Sister of Norma Rader
Uncle of Jim Davis
Father of Neva Laurie-Berry
Dorothy—Aunt of Nancy Moffett
Tina—Niece of Sharon Britcher
Mickie—Mother of Traci Drake
Step Mother of Roger Martin



**ALL AGES
ANNUAL
PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST
AND SING-A-LONG**

Sunday, October 30th
6 – 7:30 PM
Fellowship Hall
(FREE SNACK SUPPER PROVIDED)

**Bring a pumpkin, carving knives,
and a "finger" food!**

Of Mountains and Methodism

Nancy Tam Davis, PNWAC Lay Leader

I may not be a fast or accomplished mountain climber, but I am persistent. I've been climbing for about 30 years. I didn't realize I was climbing the first few years, more like wandering the forest. I barely noticed the incline. I knew I could turn back any time or stop and rest for long periods of time. But at some point the mountain learned my name and began to tease me forward and upward, one step at a time.

Feeling more accomplished, and even with a sense of pride, I reached the summit, only to realize it was just a foothill. The real mountain lay behind and above my climb. The mountain is called Methodism. It's a LOT bigger than United Methodism and my journey has only begun. I do know that going back down is not an option, nor is staying where I am. The mountain knows my name and it calls me onward.

I thought I knew Methodism; I've been a Methodist for 30 years. I know what our churches look like, from the traditional tower front, to the pews filled with grey haired seniors struggling to keep the church alive. I can recite the order of worship and predict that the coffee hour will last longer than the sermon. I know which issues will divide us and which will unite us. I was feeling pretty darn smug about it.

Then I attended the World Methodist Conference in Houston last week. It didn't look like our General Conference at all. They sang differently – out loud and with movement! Sermons and Bible Studies brought the audience to its feet shouting and affirming. We sang together, each their own native language and it was not chaos.

At first I noticed the many differences, the clothing, the favorite songs, the preaching styles. There were many different kinds of Methodists there and I was intent on understanding those differences. Even those parables so familiar to me and clear in interpretation could be interpreted differently.

The conference theme was “ONE”. The challenge to me was to move through my initial reaction of difference and pay attention to what was underneath. The teaching of the Gospel was our common foundation and the wisdom of John Wesley connected all of us. We may branch in different directions, but we come from one common root. Here are some snippets of the many sermons and Bible studies that caught my attention.

- Oneness is not “connectivity”, sameness or exclusivity. It is community, variety and ALL, without exception.
- Restoring oneness requires confession, grace and forgiveness. When truth is used without grace it divides us.
- Privilege damages. It damages both the privileged and non-privileged.
- Change happens when we cross the street for love. Love is our driver, not judgment.

Continued.....

....Continued

- Unity of Christians is powerful, dangerous and threatening. We are millions, with a voice, a common mission and can choose to be heard; o make a difference.
- Something new is trying to be born.
- As the lion and lamb can come together, so can justice and mercy.
- Oneness is about unity AND moving forward. We have been called for transformation, our work is not done once we build a church and open the doors.

I do not have conclusions or interpretations for these comments. I can not fold them up and put them away for they continue to call to me. They have become the “thinking points” for my mind and heart. What I do know is that we are and can continue to be one. From conservative to liberal, from established communities of faith to fledgling ones, from 159 countries and through 139 languages, we are one. Now, surveying tomorrow from the top of my foothill I see many more and taller mountains. I have been outfitted well by John Wesley. I am ready for the journey.

**Join us for the
9th Annual Celtic Faire
at
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Saturday, October 15
10 am – 4 pm**

Vendors, Celtic Dancers & Music, Genealogy, High Tea, Children's Games, Lunch Shoppe, Bake Shoppe

Sunday, October 16

Celebration of the Feast of St. Andrew
Worship Services at 8 am & 10 am
with bagpipes & Kirking of the Tartans

Celtic Spirituality Discussion
Led by Christine Sine, Co-Founder of
Mustard Seed Associates
at 3:30 pm

For more information:
www.saintandrewstacoma.org
7410 S. 12th St., Tacoma, WA

You Are Invited: Dessert with Missionaries at Mason United Methodist Church's Sanctuary on October 14th at 7:00 PM. Larry and Jane Kies are Missionaries working at Africa University in Zimbabwe. They will speak on their life and work; their challenges and successes.
Plus there's dessert. Hope to see you for this informative and delicious event!

Rachel Fitzgerald [253-759-3539](tel:253-759-3539)





On Sunday September 11, 2016
Director Mike Yoder, CEO of Associated Ministries (AM)
presented UCUP with a
Certificate of Appreciation
as a top ten donor participant in the
2015 Hunger Walk

This year's Walk will take place **Sunday, October 2 from 12-3 p.m. at Ft Steilacoom Park**. Please register on line with the UCUP team at <https://associatedministries.org/event/hungerwalk2016/>.



I am Uniting People of Faith to Build Stronger Communities

September's 4th Sunday Forum

Submitted by Peace & Justice

Mr. Yoder shared that the Pierce County (PC) participation in the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) one-day count of the homeless statistics revealed 1750 individuals, 400 of which were children. This number is up 35% and while it may be in part an artifact of better canvassing the issue begs smarter action. Regardless of the numbers, AM for the past 6 years has been on the front lines as it has morphed into a professional services delivery agency in its middle age (47 years in existence) – and it is sensing that a new direction is required. Mike's call to us during our Sunday Forum is for the interfaith community to become aware, adopt and support a "Housing First" policy versus a poorly working "housing ready" stance. It is turning on its head the myth that homeless people of whatever circumstances need to be "ready" or attain some "special status" to move into safe shelter. Many families with small children live on the streets, in tents, sleep in cars or find shelter in abandoned buildings. Of the 13,000 calls to AM in 2015, 4,000 "met criteria" and 800 were placed! This is unacceptable. In January 2016 AM put a stake in the ground and said that it will address by 2025 = house and support 100% of the families who are homeless annually, which means rehousing and returning to community. Utah ten-year road to success and reduction of homeless by 90% is the template and it concerns communities of faith. This is the critical challenge and "redesign need" that is unfolding in Pierce County; all while it confronts a dearth of mental health beds (2.6/100K= a MH desert), > 40% self-described MH needs of surveyed clients, Seattle level construction costs, poor existing housing stock labeled as "tough and not enough," and a tax adverse PC council that cannot tolerate even a 0.1 of 1% local taxing jurisdiction hike, and so forth. The county faces across its institutions, private landlords, and over 600 faith based churches a call to "open doors" and take its homeless in. There is more to come on this endeavor. PC commissioner elections will have as part of their issues mental health services. "I was hungry,...I was in prison..." – Matthew 25:35.

October 2016

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
2 12-3pm Hunger Walk Fort Steilacoom Park 	3	4 1pm ALZ Group 7pm FAN Candidates Forum	5 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 6-8pm My Sisters Pantry Fundraiser	6 6-7:30pm Audio Book 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8 Blue Heron Retreat 
	10 5pm SPR 6:30pm Board Mtg	11 10am Cong. Care Noon P&J	12 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 6:30pm Finance Mtg	13 4:30 FSG 6-7:30pm Audio Book 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 
16 11:30am Constitution Discussion Mtg.	17 	18	19 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 	20 6-7:30pm Audio Book 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal	21 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night 	22 10-12:30 Volunteer Day at My Sisters Pantry
23 Preacher: Jan Van Pelt 11:30am 4th Sunday Forum: Solar Energy 30 Preacher: Paul Ortiz 6pm Pumpkin Carving	24 	25 Lynne's 5 yr UCUP Anniversary 	26 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group Want to Join US?	27 6-8pm Preschool Trunk or Treat 6-7:30pm Audio Book 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29 
31 Halloween						



Church Contact

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Church Employees

Rev. Cathlynn Law
 Office Admin: Lynne Jenks-Dudsches
 Music Director: Jeff Andersen
 Nursery Attendant: Claire McCarthy



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**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**