

January 2017

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

Upcoming Events

January 6th at 6pm

2nd Annual Celtic Spiral Service & Kings Cake (Page 6)

January 22nd at 11:45am

UCUP Annual Meeting

February 11th

Family Housing Network families arrive (Page 7)

Departing on February 25th

Our Invisible Saints

When you drive into UCUP's parking lot, passing our roadside sign, do you ever wonder who puts up the letters? Your newsletter appears in your inbox or you get it by mail. Who does this? Now that we are beginning a new year, we should pause, reflect, & thank our living saints. There are so many ways that individuals help out & serve our church, & we hardly give it a thought. The "giving tree" that appeared before Christmas, hung with cards for Family Housing Network families & congregation members in need of a little help was organized by our Peace & Justice folks. Take a minute to reflect on these gifts of time & effort, & thank the saints among us.

Our Saints include: Tom Milligan who takes care of the street sign. Lou & Margie Lehmann faithfully fold & mail our newsletters every month, while Lynne types & organizes the email version, as well as printing out the mailed versions. Mary Jones folds our weekly bulletins & puts the insert in to each one every Friday after they are printed, Dorothy McCuistion, Judith Thierry, & Cathi Cline prepared the giving tree. Joyce Demarest takes notes during the service so she can prepare the "Joys and Concerns" column in our newsletter. Various members take turns leading the Brown Bagger Faith Exploration sessions. Jim Cash (and friends), Don Morgan, Don Thompson, Peter Burhop, & David Higby help with basic facilities maintenance. Sharon Britcher often comes in to cover for Lynne when Lynne needs a day off. Any task that needs doing usually gets volunteers to step up. If we haven't thanked you, we are remiss. We are surrounded by UCUP Saints, & we REALLY appreciate you!

From Pastor Cathy



It takes a village to bring together Advent & Christmas Worship Services, and what a village we have at United Church in University Place. Many thanks to Nancy Moffett for resurrecting her dad's antique lanterns and bells to set the stage of 19th Century England for our theme "The Redemption of Scrooge". The bells were quite a hit during our "Time with the Children" as the kids received a card from "God" each week, and the lanterns made a lovely display in our Narthex & Sanctuary. I understand Dan Moffett would have been so pleased to see his bells, lanterns, AND Advent Candle bases make a comeback for Advent & Christmas at UCUP.

Additional thanks to Neva Laurie-Berry for securing readers for our "Scrooge" dramas each Sunday AND for putting together a lovely Lessons & Carols on Christmas Day. Readers during Advent & Christmas included: Joe Becker, Tanya Sorenson, Robert Brown, Cathi Cline, Jim Davis, Laura Giddings, Leslie Ann Knight, Vic Bode, Angie Wolle, Pamela Maddess, Tom Milligan, Chris Berry, Dennis & Diane Small, Marilyn Thompson, Aaron Young, Tanner Harding, & Anwen Young. What a talented group we have at UCUP!



The turn-out for the Blue Christmas service is never very large - maybe 15-30 attendees each year. It definitely helps with attendance when the choir sings. Thank you Choir for your gift of "Breath of Heaven" this year! But large numbers are not the goal for this service. Every year, the Blue Christmas brings solace and comfort to a different person. This year, we had attendees from other congregations, whose Pastors encouraged them to attend our service. We also had the Thierry family in attendance as they remembered Hank's uncle who had passed away that very day. We are grateful for the hospitality Pamela Maddess brings to this service every year. Her gift of accompanying those who are grieving ensures this service happens each year. Thank you Pamela.

Many thanks for the Birthday cake and celebration and helping me move into my sixth decade of life. Leave it to the Congregational Care Team to sneak up on me to with a surprise fellowship time birthday cake. And fun to share the spotlight with our phenomenal Music Director Jeff Andersen who celebrates a birthday the 20th of December. I feel very much loved by a very thoughtful church. Thank you.

Continued.....





Every year Ellen and Wes Davis pull out all the Christmas Pageant costumes and get them organized to hold a sometimes very spontaneous Christmas Pageant each year, complete with all the animals, the Holy Family, the Heavenly Host, the Magi and the Star. This year we heard the awesome voices of two of our youth reading

poems with great inflection: Tanner Harding and Anwen Young. We also had a surprise appearance by a hay eating sheep (Nancy Moffett) and a dancing, harp-playing celestial being (Elizabeth Scherman), surrounded by a fabulous cast of Nativity Players.



On Christmas Eve Eve - 12/23 - Sharon Britcher & Ellen Davis were busy hanging wreaths in our windows; Pat Mail, Aaron Young, Lisa Huston, & Susan Kelly helped stuff candles into our new "high-tech" holders and set up additional seating in the back of the sanctuary; while Nancy Moffett & Judy Thierry tended to the altar and Chancel area.



On Christmas Eve we welcomed back our faithful bagpipers, Seamus & Suzanne, to the largest crowd UCUP has seen in at least 5 or more years - just shy of 200. At least 80 of those were unknown to us, which tells us that our Christmas Eve service is a great outreach to our community. We did not have a baby to fulfill the role of the Christ Child for the Hail Christ during the Christmas Eve Service, but God provided not just one baby, but at least two to fill the role. We give thanks for 18 month old Kaia Prenderville, (proud parents of Alina & Pat & granddaughter of Robert & Kathi Brown), and to the foster parents of an infant. It was their first time at our church after reading about our Celtic Service in the newspaper.



Our offering on Christmas Eve collected over \$1500 for the Emergency Food Network. EFN supplies food to over 60 food banks across Pierce County for those facing food insecurity.

I am grateful to be surrounded by a faithful congregation and talented staff. May our ministry for 2017 continue to be fruitful as we move closer to the Realm of God and Peace on Earth.



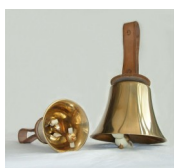
Tattoos on the Heart Book Study Resumes

January 5th, 12th & 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Even if you haven't joined us to listen to Father Greg Boyles read his heartfelt stories of working and being in ministry with gang members, please join us for the last three chapters of the book. Father Greg will open your heart to the power of boundless compassion.

Chime choir starting for Kids & Youth

If your child or youth is interested in learning to play chimes, please talk to Pastor Cathy so we can set up a date to begin practice. It is a great way for kids to be exposed to religious music and is a non-threatening way to learn music and rhythm. Reading music is not a prerequisite. Music will all be color coded.



Handbell Choir Opportunity (submitted by Pastor Cathy)

Twenty years ago, just as I started seminary, I was working as a youth director at Everett United Methodist Church. While there, I started a pre-school chime choir, a youth bell choir, and an adult bell choir. When I was the pastor at Snoqualmie UMC, I started youth & adult bell choirs there as well, borrowing Everett UMC's handbells. That church has now sold their building and are meeting at Everett Community College. They no longer have need for the bells, and will be selling them at some point. They asked if we might be interested in borrowing them until they find a buyer for the bells.

So, if you have ever had an interest in learning to play handbells, now is your opportunity. Talk to Pastor Cathy to express your interest and best time(s) to practice. We will start practicing some time near the end of January. Reading music is not a prerequisite, but being able to count musically and having some rhythm is beneficial.

Organ Tuning

Every year the organ gets tuned. But have you ever seen the pipes spread out all over the chancel while it is being tuned? It's kind of fun to see the pipes in the closet exposed.



UCC Conference Men's Retreat at Pilgrim Firs February 3rd-5th

"Finding the Wisdom We Need" with Conference Minister Rev. Mike Denton. The retreat is an opportunity to engage with other men in meaningful discussion, worship and song, and reflection on life's transitions. The schedule allows for sharing as well as solitude. To register, go to <http://pilgrim-firs.org/> and click on Events in the banner. Then scroll down to the Men's Retreat.

Birthday Party for Tacoma Community House

Tacoma Community House (TCH) was founded by United Methodist Women in 1910. TCH works with our immigrant population in the areas of advocacy, employment, and education, as well as more basic needs such as shelter, food, and clothing. They will be celebrating its 107th birthday on January 10 from 3 - 5 p.m. There will be music, testimonials, storytelling, fun, and food. Cara Scriven, District Superintendent of Tacoma UMC, will be there, as well as clients of TCH. The address is 1314 South L St. Tacoma. Pastor Cathy will be attending, so feel free to ask for a ride.



Meet our new Bishop of the Greater Northwest Conference

January 8th from 2-4 p.m.

@ Olympia UMC 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia

Written by Bishop Elaine Stanovsky

On August 13, without fanfare, my husband, Clint and I crossed from Montana into Idaho on I-90. It was a pilgrimage from Denver to Seattle; from one rich chapter of life and ministry in the Mountain Sky

Area into another, unknown chapter in the Greater Northwest Area. How do you enter a new place? Or how do you re-enter a familiar place after many years? How does a leader join multiple teams each with its own habits and traditions, its quirks, taboos and preferences?

In Luke 10, Jesus sends his followers to places they had never been before with instructions to "carry no purse, no bag, no sandals" (Luke 10). He tells them to offer only a blessing of peace and to receive the hospitality offered them by strangers who receive their blessing. They are to heal the sick and tell them that the Kingdom of God "is right on your doorstep".

Sounds like a gentle kind of evangelism, grounded in vulnerability, mutual respect, shared resources and healing relationships. Can it be that the Kingdom of God is there on the doorstep – the threshold – where guest and host exchange blessings and meet one another?

I'm thinking of this year as a threshold. Throughout the year I will travel to a variety of places for "threshold events" where we will meet and bless one another. In June, we'll cross the threshold into new relationship with a service of installation during the joint Annual Conference session of the Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences, with representatives from Alaska joining us as well. God is at work in the world, sending us to new places to meet new people. We are blessed to be a blessing!



Second Annual Epiphany Celebration Friday, January 6th - 6 p.m.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a Soup Supper, our Celtic Spiral Service, and to share our King's Cake.

A new tradition was started last year 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.

If you would like to help with this event - bringing soup, setting up - please contact me.

Pastor Cathy.

Sunday Forum January 29th at 11:30am **Topic: Living Safely on a Dynamic Earth** **Led By: Duncan Foley**

Really? Learning about safe living in a land of earthquakes and other geologic hazards can be fun? Come learn how to live an aware life, not a fearful one, in our geologically active part of the planet.

Learn about local risks. Dynamic geologic processes bring us the mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, and shorelines that make the Pacific Northwest a highly desirable place to live. They also bring us volcanoes, earthquakes, lahars, landslides, floods, and tsunamis. How do we get ready for rare but high consequence events? What is resilience and why is it important? What free steps can you take today that will help you respond to and recover from geologic events, and help you resume your life?

Duncan Foley has taught, written about, and lead community workshops in geologic hazards for more than 40 years.



Family Housing Network

Hosting the Families

For the second year, our Fellowship Hall will be 'home' for homeless families working to regain their independence within the Family Housing Network for a second week in February.

We and Mt. Cross Lutheran, our neighbors and longtime partners in this mission, will provide meals and hosts for the families from Feb. 11 through Feb. 18, and though the families will remain in the Fellowship Hall from Feb. 18 through the morning of Feb. 25, Family Housing Network's main office will be responsible for arranging meals and hosts during that second week.

We'll need volunteers to set up the space the evening of Feb. 10 and the morning of Feb. 11, and especially volunteers to provide main dishes, side dishes and other food and supplies for the kitchen.

Look for further details in the February newsletter and during announcements at Sunday worship. Sign-up sheets will appear as usual toward the end of January, and there are plans in the works to conduct an orientation session Feb. 4 from 9am-noon, to welcome new volunteers for this mission, and acquaint longtime volunteers with some changes in the overall program.



UCUP Needlers

Submitted by Rev. Cathi Cline

Have you been wishing for a group of people with whom you can share your love of needlework?

There is something special and spiritual about visiting with others while being productive or helping others to complete a piece of fabric art.

If you share a love of crafting, or want to visit with those of us who do, please join us in the Orchard View Room on Monday, January 2nd, from 10 am to 3 pm and the first Monday of each month thereafter.

Come when you can and stay as long as you wish. There is a fridge and a microwave to accommodate any lunch or beverage you would like to bring. I will bring my sewing machine, ironing board and iron, extension cord, cutting mats, and rotary cutters, a variety of knitting needles and crochet hooks. But please bring your own project or material, yarn, etc. to start a new one. If you need a sewing machine, you will have to bring one.

Hope to see you then!





Joys & Concerns

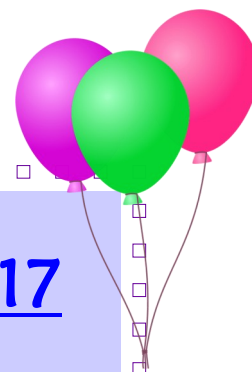
Submitted by Joyce Demarest



THANK YOU! The Congregational Care Committee would like to start the new year out by thanking everyone that helped them carry out their mission in 2016. So, to everyone that brought cookies, cup cakes, etc. for Fellowship Time...served as Fellowship Time Hosts...to everyone that called on or sent a note to someone else in the congregation...or made a point to talk to a visitor during Fellowship Time....Thank you so much!

The members of your Congregation Care Committee:

Deb Howard, Sharon Britcher, Pat Mail, Ardie Herbel, Shirley Paulson,
Vic Bode, Kathy Munn and Joyce Demarest



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

January 2017

1 Jim Fohrman

2 Jon Foreman

16 Randi Byrd

Elizabeth Scherman

18 United Church In UP

20 Hadi Dadashion

21 Cierra Gillard

25 Joan Martin

28 Mildred Seales

Michelle Wallace

Santa, Mrs. Claus and Elf Dawn

Pat and I have been playing Santa and Mrs. Claus for at least ten years now for the Foster Children at Catholic Community Services, thanks to Dawn Foreman's request all those years ago!

They always tell us *thank you* and we always say *no, thank you !!!!*

Being there with those wonderful children, is the Best Christmas Present we could ever receive!!!



DON'T JUST GIVE MONEY AWAY!

We are always grateful for donations to our church, but there are those among you who stick a \$5 or \$10 bill in an envelope and do not identify yourselves. These occasional contributions add up, and if you itemize your taxes, can be a helpful deduction. The only person who knows about your contribution is the Financial Secretary. So please write your name on the envelope so we can give you credit at the end of the year. Thank you and have a healthy, spirit-filled and loving 2017.

A poster for Interfaith Advocacy Day. The background is a night photograph of the Washington State Capitol building, illuminated and seen through bare trees. A streetlight is visible on the left. The text is overlaid on this image.

Save the Date:

INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY

Feb. 9, 2017
Olympia, WA

Join advocates in your legislative district
to bring the voice of compassion and
justice to our elected officials.

Legislative Conferences also to be held in
Spokane on Jan. 28 and in Yakima on Feb. 11.

fanwa.org/interfaith-advocacy-day

Dishwasher

Have you noticed our new Dishwasher in the Fellowship Hall kitchen?

Directions on how to operate it are on a large laminated poster, which is hung on the wall beside it.

The new D/W uses three different detergents and we have 5-10 gallons of each, so we should be well stocked for awhile.

When we are low on supplies, please let Lynne in the office know what she needs to order. Leave a note and include the Name of the product, the Number of Gallons, etc. to purchase and any other details that may help in her ordering.

Thanks so much!

Church Dinner Group

Our Church Dinner Group of about twelve wonderful people that meets “faithfully” each month at our home, other’s homes or a restaurant. We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of people with diverse backgrounds which makes for interesting if not “spirited” discussions.

Submitted By Bob & Pat Rudolph



Sunday School Pic From December 2016



January 2017

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Years Day 	2 10am-3pm Needlers— Orchard View Room 5pm	3 10am Cong. Care 1pm ALZ Group	4 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 	5 6:30 Audio Book Study 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal	6 6pm Spiral Service	7
8 2-4pm Meet the new UMC Bishop 	9 6:30pm Board Mtg	10 6pm Peace & Justice Mtg 3-5pm TCH Open House	11 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 6:30pm Finance Mtg	12 6:30 Audio Book Study 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal	13 	14
15	16	17	18 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 	19 6:30 Audio Book Study 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal	20 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night 	21
22 11:30am UCUP Annual Mtg	23 	24	25 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 	26 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal	27 	28
29 11:30am Forum Topic: Living Safely on a Dynamic Earth led by Duncan Foley	30	31				



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Newsletter

Vol. 35 No.1
January 1, 2017

**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

Thursdays

7:30pm Choir Practice
(Sept—May)

Monthly

1st Sunday of the month
Communion during worship

1st Monday of the month
10am-3pm Needler's Craft Group

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***