

February 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



February 26th - 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall Shrove Tuesday / Mardi Gras Celebration

We will celebrate the end of the season of Epiphany and the beginning of Lent with a pancake feast immediately following worship on February 26th. The day before Ash Wednesday is called Shrove Tuesday, or more popularly known by the French term Mardi Gras, meaning "Fat Tuesday," a contrast to the fasting during Lent. It is also known as Shrovetide ("shrove" is an Old English word meaning "to repent"). The entire three day period has now come to be known in many areas as Mardi Gras. During this Shrovetide, people partied and ate up all the fatty foods which were forbidden during the 40 days of Lent. Fat Tuesday was named from the custom of eating meat, eggs, fat, and milk. Often pancakes were the meal of the day, so people could consume much of the soon-to-be- forbidden food. Many churches now observe Mardi Gras with a pancake meal, eating together as a community before the symbolic fasting of Lent begins.



There will be pancake races, mask-making, and coloring Alleluia banners. If you are able to help with the festivities, talk to Pastor Cathy. We will definitely need help that day!

Following our meal, we will burn the palms from Palm Sunday 2016 to make ash for our Ash Wednesday service.

Ash Wednesday March 1st

Join us for a meditative service at 7 p.m. to receive the imposition of ashes. In the ritual of Ash Wednesday, which begins the Lenten journey through the desert, we receive a cross-shaped smudge on our forehead. The ashen sign reminds us that we are dust, and to dust we will return. We begin this desert journey marked with ashes, the sign of our mortality. In remembering that we will die, we are called to remember God who is the source of our life. The season of Lent invites us into wilderness places where we remember what is most essential to us.



Lenten Soup Supper & Study Wednesday evenings, March 8th - April 5th from 6-8 p.m. Our Lenten study will be held Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. from March 8th - April 5th. Each week, different people sign up to bring a pot of soup, and others bring finger foods to share. Sign up sheet will be located in our entryway.

From Our President



As President of the congregation, I want to thank you all for your participation in the annual meeting/charge conference. We were blessed to have a nearly full slate of officers and committee chairs. There were no changes made to this list, and all were approved unanimously. The constitution was voted upon, and after some minor changes were made, it was approved. We also passed a budget that aligns with our values: increasing salaries of our leaders, increasing the amounts given for apportionments, and remaining generous with peace and justice groups outside the church.

We also voted to take 52 people off our roles. Each had been contacted by the Congregational Care Committee. Some chose to actively remove themselves from the roles, some did not respond, and some were unfound. Enough time was given to this process that we believe that all these former members do not wish to come back; however, if they do, they will be welcomed with open arms. This process reduces our membership to 124 as of December 31, 2016.

As points of personal privilege, I would love to note that my extended family occupied an entire pew for our Christmas Eve service. My older grandchildren especially were impressed at the end by the marvelous candlelight, and my son-in-law, Pat Prendiville told me it was the richest, most poignant Christmas Eve service he's attended. I love hearing that, even though I know part of it might have been because he enjoyed parading around the sanctuary with his baby daughter. Also, my father-in-law, George Hiyane loved coming to church. I think he really enjoyed having people come talk to him who did not know him. We do a great job of including others during our social moments. This is something we need to keep on doing. My father-in-law's final visit this time was to the Spiral Service on Epiphany. He even took home a bulletin from that service, which may be meant to share with his minister. Thanks for all your ministry as it reaches those who are closest to me.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Brown



Our Interfaith Action Day is set for Thursday, February 9, 2017. We now have even more people going. I will ensure that each person is registered, and I will work to ensure that car-pools exist for all who would want them. The day will start with introductions of FAN leaders, move to speeches by members of the Washington State Legislature, and then involve some education for us. Most of our contacts with the legislators will likely happen in the early afternoon, but all the time is filled with informative sessions and/or opportunities to speak at hearings. Most of us will start out for Olympia at about 7:30 and return by 4:00 or sooner.

If you want to know Faith Action Network's position on a topic, go to fanwa.org. Their website is rich with information. As Paul Benz, one of FAN's co coordinators often says, knowing what you clearly want to say before meeting with your legislator is important, and if you have a back-up story for your issue, that makes your presentation even stronger. Sometimes it is good to know what committees your legislators are on, because your issue might meet their committee's objective.

We need to keep active and let our opinions be known.





PEACE & JUSTICE



Focus Groups on Homelessness - conducted January 24th and 28th.

Results of the Family Housing Network (FHN) focus groups conducted on the 24th and 28th of January will inform the Pierce County Homelessness programming, guiding agencies on the most effective way to serve this population suffering poverty. UCUP members were invited to attend.

UCUP is hosting our Family Housing Network families (previously Phoenix Housing) Saturday, February 11 to the 25th.

Thank you to Mt. Cross as they continue to collaborate and will take the lead during the second week.

Contact: Tom Milligan tmilligan5640@hotmail.com and/or
Kathleen Kenna reachingvets@gmail.com for questions.

Sign-up sheets for the first week will be available starting Sunday January 22.

Invitation: Refugee Resettlement Agencies & interested Faith Communities

meet together to share needs, resources, and increase awareness.

Would you like have a better understanding of the work that is going on with refugees here in Western WA? Are you interested in participating in a small or expanded way?

Perhaps you teach ESL? Or could help someone with basic finance, provide a lift to an appointment as refugees are getting oriented to community.

Where: Catholic Community Services, 1323 Yakima Ave.,
Tacoma 3rd floor in the Alberta Canada Room.



When: March 20, 1 - 3 PM — the other 2017 dates will be May 15, July 17, September 18, and November 20.

Please also consider **joining our Facebook group** for this collective. Share resources, media and learn about events. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/698969663613379/>

Hunger - Hunger is here in Washington

Saturday, May 20, 2017 the Hunger Walk and 5K Run will take place at Fort Steilacoom Park reminding us there is much need and many who care. Mark your calendar. Be a part of the UCUP Team.

When: Saturday, May 20

7:30 AM - Registration/Check-In (T-Shirt and Bib Pick-Up)

9:00 AM - Run

9:05 AM - Walk



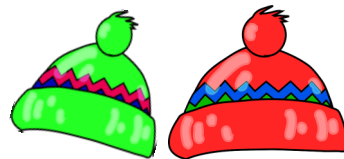
Where: Fort Steilacoom Park

For more information visit the Hunger Walk & 5K Run website

Peace,
Judy Thierry



Family Housing Network Is In Need of Gloves, Socks & Hats



This past week with the temperatures dipping into the twenties, our regularly scheduled Propane delivery did not arrive. Now in and of itself, not a big deal, or so we thought until the propane tanks got very low, and that meant no hot water, no heat, no cooking. I could do without the cooking but the hot water and heat they are sort of an essential or so I thought. When asking the company who delivers how this could have happened, they explained that the county restricted the roads on the island so that heavy vehicles weren't allowed access without a permit, or they would be fined \$500. The company and the county somehow figured out how to get our propane delivered. The big white truck made it to our place and finally warmth was restored, but not until my hands and feet were pretty frozen.

Well, the hands and feet of many of the folks now arriving in our lobby daily are also frozen and after generous donations through the holidays, we find ourselves out of GLOVES, SOCKS, and HATS. If you have a heart to offer some warmth to someone in need please drop off donations anytime between 9 and 5 PM daily. The need is immediate despite the warming temperatures.

Blessings,

Joy McDonald of FHN & Judy Thierry

Family Housing Network Meeting February 4th at 10am



Preparations for the first visit of the new year with families from the Family Housing Network will begin Feb. 4 with a gathering of church volunteers old and new for a discussion of changes to Pierce County's efforts to assist the homeless and how those changes are expected to affect our part of the program. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m., with coffee and refreshments available.

Several families with children, working to regain their self-sufficiency, will begin a two-week stay in UCUP's Fellowship Hall on the following Saturday, Feb. 11, and once again we're partnering with folks from neighboring Mt. Cross Lutheran church to provide meals through Feb. 18. Family Housing Network's main office will be responsible for arranging meals and hosts during that second week.

We're looking particularly for new volunteers, since at least two members of our regular lineup will not be available this time. If you enjoy cooking or baking for example, we hope you'll consider providing the main dish, a 'side,' or dessert for one of the four evenings for which we're scheduled.

Or give yourself a chance to meet people working hard to overcome their present circumstances and regain independence. Perhaps a word you might have to offer could be useful, and sometimes just being a sympathetic ear can provide a helpful spark.

We'll also need volunteers to stay overnight at the church and help with breakfast the next morning, evening hosts to meet the families for dinner and help them to feel welcome, and of course for setting up the space on Feb. 10 and taking it down Feb. 25. We hope you'll consider helping out with one UCUP's signature efforts in expressing the radical hospitality to which our faith has led us.

Submitted by Tom Milligan



A Picture Worth a Thousand Words Submitted by Janet Wicks (Guess Who)

Something new is waiting to emerge on the walls of the Orchard View Room. It needs a picture of YOU. Not the current photo in our church directory, not a recent photo from your selfie gallery, what we need is a picture of you from a long time ago. A snapshot or school picture that will help us create your secret identity, a larger format would be best, 5x7 or 8x10 but a close up wallet size memento or other photo album treasure works if we can see you clearly.

Picture Book Our Guess Who Gallery



Please bring your secret photo to church in an envelope or folder with a note listing your name and 4 or 5 words that we can use as an obscure clue to post with your entry. Put it in the large **Portfolio Envelope** marked **Picture Book**. We will collect them each week and carefully mount them with photo corners (no pins—no tape) so they can go up on our **Gallery Wall**. The more entries we have, the more fun we have trying to guess who's picture is worth a thousand words.



Joys & Concerns

Submitted by Joyce Demarest

A big THANK YOU to all of our 2016 church officers for agreeing to serve in the same offices for 2017...and to the members present at the annual meeting that quickly voted them in!.....THANK YOU to Ellen Davis who came up with the idea/menu for the lunch and to all those that brought food...to all those that helped clean up, especially Hank Thierry for washing the dishes.....THANK YOU to everyone that brought (or will bring) United Church a birthday present, in the form of a can(s) of chili - to be passed on to My Sister's Pantry. As of January 22nd we'd received 127 presents/cans.....and last, but not least, THANK YOU to our UMC District Superintendent, the Rev. Cara Scriven, for being with us as we celebrated our 47th birthday.

Congratulations to Jim and Fran Cash, they became grandparents for the first time on January 18th when granddaughter Adalynn was born.....to AJ Milleret, recently engaged.

February 2017



8 Neva Laurie-Berry
16 Dorothy McCuiston
18 Helen Engle
21 Soren Forman-10yrs
21 Jim Simpson
28 Win Bjarke

Please keep in prayer: Blanche Beesley who recently broke her right arm and wrist and left hand when she fell. She had surgery on her hand on the 19th. Pray for Lahra as she takes on her mother's care and all the household dutiesPray for Sophia Whitney....., whose head connected with the asphalt track at her school and was advised to rest and take it easy for a few days - not easy for one so young.....for Pat Mail as she continues to recover from pneumonia.for Norma Rader & others recovering from the 'bug' that is going around.....Please continue to hold those in prayer that are unable to join us on Sunday mornings: Yvonne Begeman...Dorothy Burkhart...Mollie Chaffee...Michael Marcoe...BJ Morgan...Mildred Seales...Donna Shoe...Betty Smith...Linda and Levi Vanderbilt...Randi Byrd & Michelle Wallace.

Reflection of Duncan Foley's Earthquake Presentation

Submitted by Hank Thierry

Last Sunday, 35 people were treated to a superb presentation on earthquakes by Duncan Foley, a geologist by training. He covered a lot of territory including the 5 types of quakes, tsunamis and many ways to prepare for the possibility of either event. Thank you Duncan for helping us understand and prepare for a potential earthquake.

Associated Ministries: Women Building Bridges of Interfaith Unity

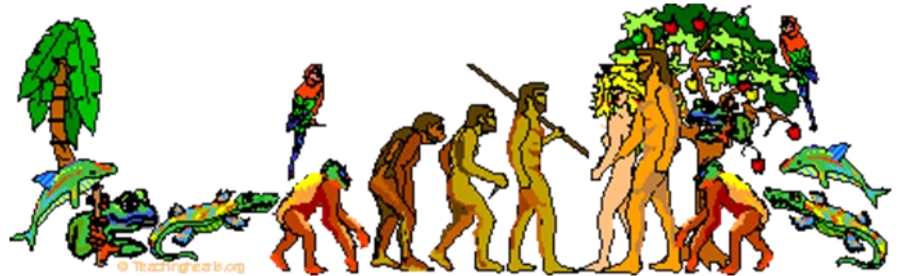
Join us March 4th at Curtis High School from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. for the inaugural Interfaith Women's Conference. Together, we'll experience the power of unity, explore ways we can work together to assist more people in need, explore the potential and power of interfaith collaboration, and discover new ways to strengthen our communities.

The Interfaith Women's Conference is not only for women who attend churches, temples, and mosques. It is also for non-affiliated women who are spiritually curious and who support religious pluralism, respectful dialogue, and engaged social action that benefits communities. This includes those who are spiritual but not religious.

The conference will offer a keynote presentation, 3 workshop periods with 24 workshops to choose from, lunch, and closing ceremony. Talk to Pastor Cathy if you are interested in attending.

12th Annual Evolution Weekend February 10 - 12, 2017

Submitted by Dr. Neva Laurie-Berry



Religious people from many diverse faith traditions and locations around the world understand that evolution is quite simply sound science; and for them, it does not in any way threaten, demean, or diminish their faith in God. In fact, for many, the wonders of science often enhance and deepen their awe and gratitude towards God.

This year marks the 12th annual Evolution Weekend, an opportunity for serious discussion and reflection on the relationship between religion and science. Because religion and science use different methodologies to understand the world, and because religion and science ask very different questions, there is no reason to view them in conflict. One important facet of Evolution Weekend, therefore, is to explore the questions each ask and to examine the different ways of knowing embodied in each.

Dr. Neva Laurie-Berry will lead us in a conversation during worship Feb. 12th, about the relationship between religion and science, and how the melding of different fields of study can enhance both our faith and our understanding of the universe we dwell in.



Women's March

There was an uncoordinated presence of folks from UCUP marching in solidarity with the Women's March in Washington D.C. on January 21st. Rosemary, Kris, Elizabeth, Marilyn, Don, Angie, Christine, Pamela, Bob, Pat, & Nancy D. joined in the Olympia march at the Capitol. Hank & Tom joined in with their closest 100,000 plus friends in Seattle.

Pastor Cathy found two former pastors from UCUP in the throng at the Seattle Center: Rev. Joanne Carlson Brown & Rev. Jan Van Pelt.



Happy Birthday United Church in University Place!

UCUP celebrates **47 years** in ministry by bringing chili to support our local food bank!

Thank you for your generosity!



Written by Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister & President of the United Church of Christ. Submitted to Huffington Post 1/26/17

Since November 9th, I have been among religious leaders who have spoken about the collective grief felt over the election of Mr. Trump. I am also among religious leaders being told to keep your mouth shut because “faith and politics don’t mix”, “honor the separation of church and state”, or “you risk offending members of your congregation.”

I respectfully agree with none of it. Faith and politics DO mix. I hosted a radio show years ago in Phoenix entitled “Relevance: Where Faith and Politics Collide”. Often, the collision has nothing to do with the separation clause in our founding documents.

The nature and tenor of public speech from many religious leaders who will continue to speak out against Mr. Trump’s shameful rhetoric, is not to be understood as the disappointment of those who did not get their way on Election Day.

Religious leaders will always be party to political debates that enhance the larger agenda of a nation committed to a democratic process. We belong in the marketplace of ideas, and will never be silent on things that matter. Whether we are arguing about marriage equality, reproductive choice, the death penalty, the deployment of our armed forces, health care, climate justice, immigration or a host of other issues that require collective and political options to be debated – people of faith have something to say. Excluding their voices from public debate would not only be a great loss, it would be an infringement of the First Amendment and an egregious overreach of governmental authority.

Having said all of that, for those of us in the religious community decrying the election of Mr. Trump – and doing so in the face of greater and greater resistance to it – it is not the political debate that is fueling the intensity of our own responses right now. I’m not saying we won’t continue to have that debate – we will, and we need to. This is not a matter of us disagreeing with Mr. Trump more than we disagreed with other politicians. It differs not by degree but by category.

It is less the politics of Mr. Trump that draws our ire than it is the degrading nature of his rhetoric and the embrace of a persona that inflicts trauma, pain, grief, and humiliation on large segments of our population with malice aforethought and without shame or regret.

This is not a political debate. Yet. It is a humanitarian cause. He called Mexicans rapists, murderers, and drug dealers. He is asking us to convert Muslim in our minds from a connotation of “peace-loving neighbor” to “terrorist”, with no other facts present than that they are Muslim. He is insisting that we all adopt his paranoia. He is promising to force Muslims to register. Of all the things that are hauntingly reminiscent of the Fascism of 1930s Germany, this one, frightens the hell out of me. He bragged about sexually assaulting women with a tone and a vocabulary that can’t be dismissed as locker room humor – not when you want to occupy the Oval Office and assume the voice of this democratic republic. He degraded a disabled man in a wheelchair. That was deplorable. What decent humane person does that?

No, this isn’t a policy debate or an argument about political pathways of how to build an equitable, just society in which the poor are fed, children are educated, neighborhoods are kept safe, or health care is distributed wisely and evenly. This is about basic human dignity and decency being violated almost daily from the highest office of this country.

We can elect whom we want to occupy that office. That we have elected someone whose behaviors have long been known to us and on display for all to see says more about our collective will shifting than it does about him. Whatever it was that made American want to embrace this style of leadership – THAT is what we now rage on about. In the presence of such deplorable behavior and an audience happy to receive it, we cannot and will not remain silent.

For many of us, religious ideals that compel us to enter into a struggle for basic human decency and dignity require us to respond to what we have endured from the lips of this.....

opportunistic narcissist. You can count on religious leaders insisting that the President of the United States of America speak and act in ways that communicate a baseline of decency, respect, dignity and worth.

You can't separate religion from decency. And when the art of politics becomes the seedbed of indecency, asking religious leaders to hold their tongue is tantamount to treason.

Statement on Trump Immigration order by Bishop Bruce R. Ough,

President of the United Methodist Council of Bishops: Resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area January 30, 2017

I stand with colleagues representing several faith traditions to strongly denounce President Trump's widespread attack on immigrants and refugees. President Trump's reckless, ill-conceived executive orders will divide families, impose a religious test for Muslims facing forced migration, penalize communities providing sanctuary and wall off the United States from our neighbors. These actions are expensive, unnecessary and profoundly antithetical to our values of compassion, dignity and justice for all individuals regardless of nationality, religious affiliation or legal status.

The biblical witness is clear and unambiguous. Walls are unbiblical. Hospitality is biblical. Denying one's neighbor is unbiblical. Welcoming the stranger is biblical. It is not surprising that Judaism, Christianity and Islam teach the reign of God as a banquet to which all peoples are invited. We are to welcome the sojourner, love our neighbor and stand with the most vulnerable among us. These very values from our sacred texts and faith traditions are currently reflected in the mandate of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and must not be usurped by any executive order. Orders, legislation or administrative actions that would have the U.S. State Department disqualify refugees from protection and resettlement based on their nationality or religion are a denial of the very principles this nation was built upon, contradict the legacy of leadership our country has offered the world, and dishonor our shared humanity.

Jesus was explicit in his teachings. Matthew 10:40 says, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Refugees and immigrants arrive among us, not only with their needs, but also bearing gifts of energy, resourcefulness, love of liberty and hope. These gifts have always contributed to the renewal of our society and the church. Above all, these strangers bring to us the Christ. When we welcome a stranger we welcome Jesus, and when we welcome Jesus we welcome our creator. Refugees, immigrants, those yearning to be free—these are the ones whom Jesus spoke about when he said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35). Repeatedly Jesus tells his disciples: "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." (Mt 16:25) The original Greek language is far more poetic, powerful and prophetic. In finer translations of the Greek language, we hear Jesus saying: "Whoever seeks to build a wall around their soul shall destroy it; whoever tears down the wall (around their soul) shall bring their soul to a living birth."

The very soul of our country is at stake. When we abandon strangers who are at risk of bigotry, xenophobia and violence we not only destroy their hope, we destroy our own souls. When we fail to assist the refugees fleeing danger, we not only place them in harm's way, we do harm to our own souls. When we build walls of concrete, or walls of divisive rhetoric, or walls of fear, or walls of immoral immigration policies, we build a wall around our own souls.

Christ calls us to tear down the walls around our souls that we might live fully and abundantly. Thus, I call on the Trump administration and the U.S. Congress to rescind the harmful executive orders and save the soul of our country. I call upon the people of The United Methodist Church to see the face of Christ in the refugee. Say "no" to the walling off of our country and our hearts and say "yes" to their hope - our hope - for new life. Let us unite and work together to bring the soul of this country to a living birth!



Pictured:
 Greg Larsen,
 Kathy Munn,
 Doris Larsen,
 Don Morgan &
 Win Bjarke

Not Pictured:
 Nancy Moffett
 & BJ Morgan















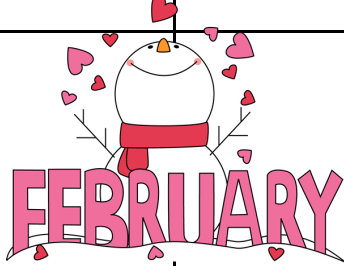
**The Founding
 Parishioners'**



**2nd Annual
 Epiphany
 January 6th
 Celtic Spiral
 Service
 & Kings Cake**

February 2017

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 5pm FSG Mtg 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal	3 	4 9am-Noon FHN Training
5 	6 10am-3pm Needlers— Orchard View Room 5pm SPR Mtg	7 10am Cong. Care Noon P&J 1pm ALZ Group	8 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 6:30pm Finance Mtg	9 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal FAN—Faith Advocacy Day	10 Family Housing Network FH Setup	11 FHN Families Arrive
12 11:30am Greening Mtg	13 6:30pm Board Mtg	14 	15 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 	16 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal	17 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night 	18 
19	20 Church Office Closed 	21	22 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group	23 7:30-9pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25 FHN Families Depart & Take Down
26 11:30am Shrove Tues Pancake Feast	27 	28 				



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: Claire McCarthy



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

Newsletter

Vol. 35 No.2
February 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***