

May 2018

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

Mother's Day Sunday - May 13th

Come share your memories and celebrate Moms with our after church fellowship on May 13. Bring a small memento or photo, past or present, to honor the special person who has been, or is "mother" in your life. We will have a display table & note cards to label with your names and a simple description of the item. We're counting on your creativity to bring a favorite, memorable, unique treasure. Just a bit of fun for the *Merry Month of May*. Thank You



Saturday, May 19 - 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Pentecost Intergenerational Celebration

Join us as the Holy Spirit moves in and among us for a "Messy Church" gathering. We will snack on "fire" veggie spears; create symbols of the Holy Spirit's presence in our midst; create a Peace and Spirit banner from various languages; eat a dinner full of vibrant red, yellow, and orange "fire" colors; and join in a short Celebration Worship.

This is a Celebration for all ages. We hope you will consider bringing a friend or two. And, if you have young friends or grandchildren, consider inviting them to come along.

We need a few more folks to help out with a few crafts and help with a simple dinner. Please talk to Pastor Cathy, Rosemary Jones, Neva Laurie-Berry, or Nancy Moffett for more information on how you can help.

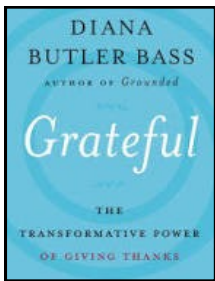
Celebrate Pentecost on May 20th with Fire Colors



Everyone is invited to wear "fire" colors on May 20th to symbolize the "tongues of fire" descending on the people.

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

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



From Pastor Cathy

**Book Study on Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks
by Diana Butler Bass
Wednesday nights starting May 16th at 6:30 p.m.**

I became aware of Diana Butler Bass 10 years ago after she wrote "Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith". I have been following her work ever since. Angie & I had the opportunity to hear her speak last fall about a new book on Gratitude that just came out a few weeks ago. I am so excited to share this gem of a book with you in a 7-week book study.

In this book, Bass writes in a very personal way about how most of us know that gratitude is good — and good for us and that there is often a disconnect between our experience of gratitude and our expression of it. While it is partially an individual, emotional response to our circumstances, research shows that what we often miss is how much more it is a communal, actionable response, and that there is a gap between our desire to be grateful and our ability to behave gratefully. In *Grateful*, Bass weaves together social science research, spiritual wisdom, and contemporary issues as she calls for a richer understanding and practice of gratitude. She illuminates how the shared practice of gratitude can lead to greater connection with God, our world, and our own souls, and how we might transform our world. In an article with Sojourners Bass says: We have privatized gratitude, so that it's become something only for *us*. Which is very strange, because gratitude is inherently social — gratitude always connects us. Yet somehow American individualism has managed to sever the ties that gratitude naturally brings to us. One of the things that I found delightful as I did research was how good emotions are imitative. Gratitude is in that category. If you're around people who are grateful, you're going to feel grateful yourself, and you're going to want to initiate acts that cause others to feel grateful.

Here is an excerpt of her book: *The words gratitude and grace come from the same root word, gratia in Latin and kharis in Greek. Grace means unmerited favor. The image of God appears - a sort of indiscriminate giver of sustenance, joy, love, and pleasure. Because you can neither earn nor pay back the gift, your heart fills with gratitude. And the power of that emotion transforms the way you see the world and experience life. Grace begets gratitude, which, in turn, widens our hearts toward greater goodness and love. Thankfulness is a feeling in response to gifts.*

One model of gratitude is a closed cycle of "gift and return" bound by social obligation and indebtedness, whereby a "benefactor", (someone wealthier, more powerful), provides a benefit for another, a "beneficiary," a person in a state of need or trouble. In this closed cycle, the beneficiary is dependent on the benefactor in a way that feels demeaning or signals indebtedness.

There is nothing inherently wrong with recognizing our dependence or mutual reliance. To be human is to rely on others. All of us are dependent every day upon general gifts given, like food we receive from the soil and the farmers who grow it, to

Continued.....



.....Continued

From Pastor Cathy

more specific ones, like a lunch a friend buys for you when you forgot your wallet. We should appreciate the work and kindness of others in taking care of our needs. We rely on one another, each other's work, and our shared stewardship of the earth and its resources. It is good to be thankful for these things. If we take the time to recognize mutual reliance, we feel appreciation in a positive, pleasing way. The problem arises when benefactors use their position to control others - and to benefit only themselves - through their benefactions.

If we change a closed system to an open one, banishing transaction and substituting grace, the picture of gratitude shifts. In the closed cycle of debt and duty, the roles of benefactor and beneficiary are static, and gifts are commodities of exchange, based on transaction and control. But in an open cycle of gratitude, gifts are not commodities. Gifts are the nature of the universe itself. Grace reminds us that every good thing is a gift. All that we have was gifted to all of us. There would be no benefactors if they were not first the recipients of grace. Gifts come before givers.

Gratitude in this sense is not a fulfillment of duty or a single act of kindness, but an infinite process of awareness and responsive action. The gift structure of the universe is an interdependent community of nature and neighbor that extends through the ages in which we care for what was given to us and give gifts to others as a response. This is not a closed circle of exchange; it is more like the circles that ripple across a pond when pebbles are tossed into the water.

Diana Butler Bass will be speaking and reading from *Grateful* live at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Tacoma on May 8th @7pm. Tickets are \$15. Best to order in advance.



Worship & Fellowship Teams

We have started a new thing at UCUP where the entire congregation attends to the "holy" tasks of worship & Fellowship Hour. Many thanks to Marilyn Thompson for your cheerful organizational skills in ensuring that all of our worship and fellowship needs were met by your hospitality team - Dorothy McCuistion, Nora de Sandoval, Renee Gillard, Helen Engle, Nancy Moffett, Susan Kelly & Sophia, Roger & Laura Balcom, Angie Wolle, AJ Rowatt, Neil & Norma Rader & Sam Smith.

During May, Janet Wicks will coordinate her team for a spring fling including Mother's Day & Pentecost. Thanks in advance to Janet & her team, including Cindy Bodie with Jimmy & Jeremiah, Pamela Maddess, Christine Long-Crossley, Bob & Pat Rudolph, Dennis, Diane & Ben Small, Jim & Fran Cash, Margie & Lou Lehmann, Ardie Herbel, Elizabeth Scherman, Tom & Allison Milligan, Duncan Foley, and Ruth Cannon.

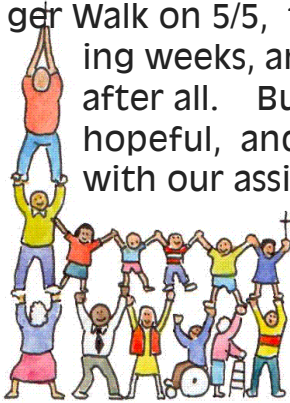


From The President



May, already! It's amazing that it's already here (especially as I write this in mid-April)! Seasons change, time passes, and it can be so easy to breeze by the joys and accomplishments we have had as we move on to the next task. Spring cleaning, planning for Spring Break, planting gardens, gearing up for the summer; there is always so much to do! And yet, it is important to pause and notice what has happened at times, to take stock, to recognize the challenges, and to celebrate the victories great and small. I am finding that is what writing this article every month allows me to do as I consider our church's life; I hope it is useful for you as well.

We have wrapped up Pastor Cathy's wonderful Lenten series, and again celebrated the miracle of Easter with a hugely successful pair of services (and a bare minimum of April Fool's jokes). And now that we have found the last hidden eggs (I hope) and eaten the last of the chocolate bunnies (I'm sure), we enter into Spring, and new seasons for our lives together. We have found that our experiment in Lent of holding the announcements in our services to the end to be a positive change to the flow of the service, one worth keeping. We have embarked bravely on our new experiment with the Worship Assistance Teams (for which we are still trying out names), to great success thanks to our first team, spearheaded by Marilyn Thompson. And we look forward to the Hunger Walk on 5/5, the Duck Daze Parade in early June, some guests in the pulpit in coming weeks, and new adventures not yet known! And allergies. And rain. It is Spring after all. But, in the spirit of Easter, may we choose to focus on the good, the hopeful, and that for which we are grateful. The rest will work out (sometimes with our assistance). Thank you all for continuing to build a place at UCUP where we can encourage, support, celebrate, and comfort each other, and where we can continue to experience the spiritual renewal of spring!



Peace,
Chris Berry—Board President

Grandparent Rights

After many long years, eleven to be exact, we finally got a grandparents' visitation bill signed in to law by the Governor.

This law will enable grandparents and their beloved grandchildren a chance to get reunited again. As it was until now, grandparents and grandchildren in Washington State who were unreasonably and unjustifiably kept from each other had no recourse.

Up until now, we were the only state in the Union that had no grandparents' visitation rights.

This new law will give them the ability to petition the court for visitation. And in some cases, it might even help families reunite without going to court.

It will help thousands of grandparents and grandchildren today and in to the future for many years to come to be able to reunite with each other.

Bob and Pat Rudolph





Joys & Concerns

Those of us that made it to the Good Friday services at St Andrew's Episcopal, on March 30th, were happy to see (and hear) Pastor Cathy was one of the ministers giving the 'meditations'.

Marilyn Thompson and the members of Team 1 have set a high standard for doing the 'jobs' that are part of the Sunday service and Fellowship Time that follows. There has been lots of goodies on the Fellowship table and smiles from Sophia as she handed out bulletins.



to Nancy Moffett, who recently received a masters degree from Western Governors University in Leadership Management..... and to Rachel Cash Bacon and husband on the birth of their son, Kaelan Cash Bacon, on April 9th. Proud grandparents, Jim and Fran have pictures.



Please keep Mary Jones in your prayers, she's losing strength and having mobility issues...Lisa Huston's mother in the hospital with blood clots...Bob Overman, one of our former organists and choir directors, recovering from an infection following surgery for appendicitis...for those unable to join us on Sunday mornings: Yvonne Begeman...Randi Byrd and Michelle Wallace...Doris Larsen...Michael Marcoe....Billie Jo Morgan.... Donna Shoe and Betty Smith.

Thank you for you great response to April's item of the month for My Sister's Pantry.



**May's item of the month is
Canned Soup**



May 2018



- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Dorothy Burkhart | 18 Irv Dickens |
| 6 Gail Simpson | 22 Donna Shoe |
| 12 Wes Davis | 27 Kathi Hiyane-Brown |
| 13 Sam(antha) Burhop | 28 Dan Morgan |
| 14 Levi Vanderbilt | 30 Nancy Davis |
| 15 Lynne Jenks-Dudschus | |



*National Day of Prayer
May 3rd 12pm-1pm
At Cheney Stadium*



Saturday, May 5, 2018

6:00 - 7:30 am: Day of Registration & Check-In (bib & shirt pick-up)

8:00 am: Run Begins

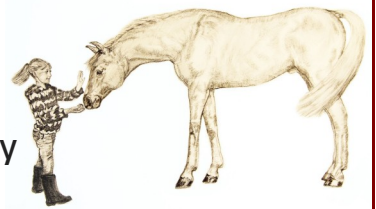
9:00 am: Walk Begin

The 38th Annual Hunger Walk & 5K Run, sponsored by The Emergency Food Network is at Fort Steilacoom Park at 8717 87th Ave SW in Lakewood. Participants will walk or run around Waughop Lake. Family-friendly activities and live music are provided at the start/finish line.

Celebrating the Curran Apple Orchard's 25th Anniversary "Forever Friends"

Join us after worship service June 3rd to learn more about the life-size bronze sculpture of a young girl offering an apple to a very special horse named Brewster (pictured).

The sculpture will be displayed in the Curran Apple Orchard in celebration of their 25th Anniversary.



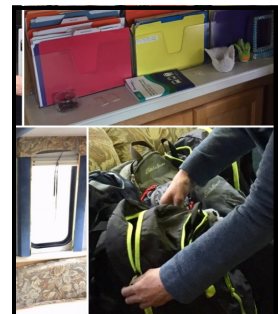
Kay Shaben and Judy Thierry visited Advocates for immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW) a nonprofit agency staffed by volunteers who work out of an RV adjacent to the NW Detention Center, Department of Homeland Security in the Tacoma flats. They serve as a *safe house* welcoming individuals as they exit a pedestrian gate through a chain linked fence. Weekdays from ~ 3-7:30pm, immigrants are released & go to the RV where they are able to contact their families, plan a trip by bus, air or placement in temporary (2-3 days) housing until their family arrives or transportation is arranged.

Info@aidnw.org 253-572-9659. AIDNW.org.

Would you like to visit? Do you have items to donate? Donations of food (fresh fruit but no bananas), clothing, S/M underclothes, socks, & toiletries are appreciated. Contact Judy or Kay and we can accompany individuals or small groups.

A fourth Sunday forum on this advocacy, awareness and opportunity for action is being planned for June 24. Note the Sunday April 8 Tribune article on Immigration Judges and Courts posted on the P&J bulletin board outside the church office.

Thanks
Judy





Days For Girls continues to accept flannel and cotton fabric, soap and new underpants for reusable menstrual hygiene kits. The UCUP youth wing was busy in fellowship/sisterhood from 10am to 3PM Saturday April 22nd cutting, ironing, fastening snaps, sewing and together participants from around the south sound the 3rd Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome to join us!



Kits are on their way to New Delhi & Jaipur India.



Friday, April 13th was sure a lucky day for Tacoma Community House! Ten members of our UCUP congregation attended the TCH Annual Luncheon to celebrate immigrants and refugees. The United Methodist Women opened the doors of TCH in the Hilltop area of Tacoma 108 years ago to welcome strangers from all over the world. You know “strangers” like Italians, Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, Filipinos, Cambodians, Vietnamese, etc. And now Syrians, Sudanese, Ukrainians, and those from Yemen use its services. This year, the Annual Luncheon raised a record amount of funds to support the Education, Employment, Immigration and Advocacy programs of TCH. Donations to date total over \$125,000.

Just how much does it cost to be an immigrant? Ten weeks of ESL classes cost \$28 and all the classes at TCH are full with waiting lists. Fork out \$50 to sit down for an interview with an Immigration Counselor. Need a GED to get a job? That test will cost you \$108. Immigration Application? \$158. Renewing a Permanent Residency Certificate? \$508. Ready to take the 40 hours of classes needed to prep for the citizenship exam? Oh, that's \$1,008! It's never too late to donate to TCH and its mission to serve immigrants and refugees.

Contact Kay Shaben at 253 564-2536 or kayshaben@hotmail.com for more information.

Kay Shaben



Dinner Groups

Two years ago, people signed up for Summer Dinner Groups. It turns out at least one of those groups, if not two, are STILL meeting. That is a testament to the bonds of friendship and fellowship that are created within our community. It's time to open the opportunity to allow more people to join in the fun.

If you would like to be part of a Dinner group or Sunday Lunch/Brunch group that meets informally throughout the summer (and perhaps for some, beyond), consider signing up in on the clipboard in the Entry Way.

4th Sunday Forum

UCC Rev. Courtney Stange-Treagear, PNC's minister for church vitality lead a Fourth Forum discussion on poverty it's underpinnings of racism and disempowerment which further marginalized groups of people perpetuating economic classism and immense suffering. Forty Days of Direct Action heralds the social justice community and faith based lead movement, voices and presence. Acts of civil disobedience likely to take place at state capitols throughout 32 participating states are being discerned.

Many members shared their personal experiences of being a banking customer, member/owner at credit unions and discussions with their banks on investments. The alarming trends of regulations that are reducing protections for deposits should a bank be required to pay back losses were brought up. The general pluses and minuses of divesting and moving funds to institutions with more socially informed focus received lively conversation by the 21 participants.

The group touched upon awareness of financial Investment in the petroleum industry and the transport systems whether pipelines or rail. Complex issues such as access to Tribal lands, oil spill cleanup underfunding, balancing total energy costs to market were also touched upon. The greening committee will be taking up the environmental and economic portions of this subject.

Thank you to Rev. Cathi Cline for moderating and coordinating this Peace & Justice supported forum.



April 22nd Earth day Sunday

UCC Rev. Courtney Stange-Treagear, PNC's minister for church vitality helps us to understand growth and the necessity of building relationships: taking time to listen, practicing patience and expanding our notion of neighbor.



Undoing Systemic Racism

I had the opportunity to participate in a two-day seminar in late March that awakened my sensibilities even more than they were to issues of systemic racism in America. Those of you who participated in the White Privilege curriculum last fall here at the church likely learned many of the things I learned during this seminar, but, while I feel little guilt about how I have lived (while I also admit to a certain blindness), I was made aware that if I simply drift through life with my privilege, I am doing nothing to address the deep-seated racism that is this country's original sin (a phrase used by the leaders). You may dispute that claim, until you realize that racism is enshrined in our Constitution, in a phrase that is typically ignored, and having to do with counting people for the decennial census.

It seems to me that it is incumbent upon us with privilege to actively work to undo it. One of the ways I hope to do this in the coming months is having a talk with the University Place School District office about how things are going on there, and how I (or, better, we as a church) can help if things seem to be skewed against black students in any way. If anyone is interested in this project, I welcome you to join me. This is not to be read as an accusation about the school district, but rather a means to serve our local community in this regard. I have no idea what the district might tell me (us), or whether they want any interference, but, to me, it is a start down this road. Another way I hope to do this is to work with the Poor People's Campaign, to which you who attended the fourth Sunday forum on April 22, heard about. Mind you: the Poor People's campaign is primarily about poverty, not about racism, but there are likely some connections.

Like some of you reacting to this article, I have no idea whether I am even on the right track, but I feel the need to do something to demonstrate that I am antiracist. I would love your company on this road. I want to add, if any of you want the experience that I had, attending the Undoing Systemic Racism, I can put you in touch.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Brown



Summer Sunday School Teachers

We currently have a Sunday School job posting out in the world, but so far no applicants. Our gratitude goes out to Win Bjarke, Robert Brown, and Rosemary Jones who have been taking turns teaching since March.

Please consider signing up to teach our kids one Sunday during the summer. There are many lesson plans and themes to choose from. You will have Addy as your assistant or another member of the congregation. Our kids are delightful and would love for you to get to know them a little better!



The sign up sheet will be in the church narthex. Speak with Robert Brown, Pastor Cathy, Rosemary Jones or Win Bjarke if you have questions.

Many thanks in advance!

*“Summer in the Forest”
at The Grand on May 22nd, 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.*

L'Arche Tahoma Hope is in partnership with Tacoma's Grand Cinema to present this feature film about the founder of L'Arche, Jean Vanier, and the first L'Arche community that is still going strong in France. In the 1960s, Jean Vanier founded L'Arche, a community near Paris that has become home to many men and women with developmental disabilities. The filmmakers follow Mr. Vanier, now in his 80s, as he lives and works with those who have Down syndrome and other conditions. Decades ago, it was a radical experiment to remove those with disabilities from institutions. But by doing so, Mr. Vanier says, they have greater freedom and can prompt those without disabilities to redefine what is considered “normal” and “happy.” “Summer in the Forest” remains captivating, particularly when Mr. Vanier speaks of his mission to bring all people together — hence the group's name in French, “the ark.” “L'Arche is not a utopia,” he says. “It's a hope.”

L'Arche Tahoma Hope will host an audience discussion of the film after each showing with a panel of current community members. Two showings: 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Tickets available online through the Grand and at the door. See the Grand's website for more on the movie, to watch the trailer and to purchase tickets:

<http://www.grandcinema.com/films/summer-in-the-forest/>

L'Arche Farm & Gardens comes to UCUP parking lot in May!

Pick up your bedding plants and other lovely items for your garden. Our plants are started by hand in organic material, and we make sure they are strong and sturdy before selling! <http://www.larchethc.org/FarmGardens/WhereToFindUs.html>

The exact date will be in upcoming bulletins.

*Gratitude for monthly meeting
space at UCUP*

The University Place Community Garden 2018 season is underway. Produce has already been donated to the Families Unlimited Network Food Bank. The UPCG Steering Committee meets the 2nd Monday and General Meeting 4th Monday @ 7 pm.

Beds are available for rent for “right on time” planting of seeds & starts & you can continue through December for all season gardening (kale, carrots, lettuces...)! Free soil & mulch. Lots of mentoring for all ages. Scholarships available.











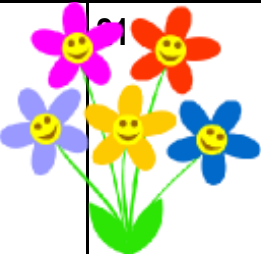







Submitted by Judy Thierry



May 2018

Every Sunday — 10am Worship Service

10:15am Elementary Sunday School

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10am Cong. Care Mtg. 1pm Alzheimer Support Grp	2 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Grp. 	3 7:30-9pm Choir Practice 12pm Assoc Ministries National Day of Prayer		5 9am Hunger Walk Begins Cinco de Mayo
6 	7 10-3pm Needler's Craft Grp. 	8	9 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Group 6:30pm Finance Mtg	10 7:30-9pm Choir Practice 	11	12 
13 Mother's Day 	14 6:30pm Board Mtg.	15 6:30-8 Mens Group in the Youth Wing	16 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Grp. 	17 7:30-9pm Choir Practice 	18 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night	19 5pm Messy Church Service in the Fellow ship Hall
20 	21	22 1:30 or 6:30 L'arche at the Grand "Summer In The Forest"	23 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Grp. 	24 7:30-9pm Choir Practice 	25	26 
27 	28 Memorial Day Office Closed	29 6:30pm SPR Mtg. 	30 Noon Brown Bagger Bible Study Grp. 	31 		

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Nursery Attendant: Addy Harding



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

Newsletter

Vol. 36 No.5
May 1, 2018

**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-9pm Choir Practice
(Sept—May)

***We are United with God,
United to Love,
and United to Serve Others***

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 Tuesday of the month
6:30-8pm Men's Group:
"Concerns in Our Hearts & Souls"

3rd Friday of the month
6:30pm P,B & Jam Night
Bring your instruments!

4th Sunday of the month
11:45am 4th Sunday Forum