

December 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**

Crèches - December 16th

Please bring and share your favorite Crèche.

We will be displaying them during the

Fellowship Time in the back of the sanctuary.

Please come early to set your crèche up prior to the service.

Christmas Pageant "The Tiny Star" - December 16th

Blue Christmas - Thursday, December 20th at 7 pm

Join us for a prayer service when we can, with others acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them,

and offer them to God. We will have some prayer,
some singing appropriate to the Christmas Season,
and a ritual for help and healing.

We hope and pray that you will find comfort
in knowing you are not alone.

Christmas Choral Cantata - December 23rd

Our fabulous UCUP Chancel Choir will be presenting

Nowell, Nowell, Emmanuell, a Christmas Cantata,

on December 23rd, the 4th Sunday of Advent.

The alternate spelling of "Nowell" is an English variant of the French word "Noel",
dating back to the 15th century.

This Cantata has a distinctly Anglican feel to it, reminiscent of John Rutter.

However, the composer, Gilbert M. Martin, was actually born
in Massachusetts, 1941, and studied music at Princeton.

I directed this piece once before, shortly after it was composed in the late 1990s.

The sheet music was gifted to UCUP from Westminster Presbyterian,
where I was previously director of music.

This upcoming performance will feature alto soloist AJ Milleret,
and guest musician, Roxane Hreha on flute.

I hope you can join us for this worshipful experience! Nowell!

Jeff Andersen, Director of Music

Celtic Christmas Eve Service- Monday December 24th at 7 pm

Epiphany Spiral Service - Sunday, January 6th at 5:30pm

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a Soup Supper, making a few Epiphany crafts,
walking a Celtic Spiral, and share in eating the King's Cake.

Additional details on page 3.



From Pastor Cathy

As we enter into the liturgical season of Advent and Christmas, we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of when the beloved carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" was put to music and used for Christmas Eve worship the first time in the city of Salzburg, Austria.

The history of this carol is fascinating. Anna, a simple weaver of modest means, lived in that Baroque city. She met a soldier, and on December 11, 1792, a child was born out of that relationship. However, the soldier took no responsibility for this child. Nevertheless, Anna gave the soldier's surname to her baby, whom she named Joseph Mohr. Anna realized that a good education would give him the hope of a good future. The local parish priest soon recognized his singing ability. He arranged for Joseph to attend the famous abbey school of Kremsmünster. There, young Joseph excelled in his studies and entered the seminary at age 16. Six years later, he was assigned as the assistant pastor at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, 10 miles northwest of Salzburg.

In 1816, Mohr meditated on the first Christmas as he paused by the river. He wrote a poem capturing the essence of that great faith event, and called it *Still Nacht, Heilige Nacht* - capturing the mystery of the incarnation - "Son of God, Love's pure light".

On December 23, 1818, Mohr discovered that the church organ was broken. The story goes that voracious mice had eaten through the bellows, disabling the wind system necessary for the pipes to produce music. Without sufficient funds or time to repair the organ, the people feared there would be no music for Midnight Mass. Father Mohr remembered the poem he had penned two years earlier and decided those words might make a good carol for his congregation the following evening at their Christmas eve service; except it wasn't set to any music. The next day Mohr rushed to the home of his friend and church organist, Franz Xaver Gruber, and asked him to write a melody to be played on the guitar. With only a few hours to come up with a melody, Gruber composed a musical setting for the poem. At Midnight Mass, on December 24, 1818, the world heard for the first time the simple yet profound carol we know as *Silent Night*.

Weeks later, well-known organ builder Karl Mauracher arrived in Oberndorf to fix the organ in St. Nicholas church. When Mauracher finished, he stepped back to let Gruber test the instrument. When Gruber sat down, his fingers began playing the simple melody he had written for Mohr's Christmas poem. Deeply impressed, Mauracher took copies of the music and words of "Silent Night" back to his own Alpine village, Kapfing. There, two well-known families of singers — the Rainers and the Strassers — heard it. Captivated by "Silent Night," both groups put the new song into their Christmas season repertoire.

The Strasser sisters spread the carol across northern Europe. In 1834, they performed "Silent Night" for Frederick William IV King of Prussia, at the Berlin Imperial Church, and he then ordered his cathedral choir to sing it every Christmas Eve throughout the kingdom at Christmas pageants and services.

Ironically, the music gained fame without any attribution to its composers. Some thought Michael Haydn, the brother of the famous composer Franz Joseph Haydn, wrote the piece. Frederick Wilhelm, thereby, ordered a search. One day, the king's agents arrived at St. Peter's monastery in Salzburg, inquiring about the composers of "Silent Night". Felix, the son of Franz Gruber, who was a student there, approached them and told them the story behind "Silent Night" and directed them to his father, who was now the choir master of another parish. From that time on, both Mohr and Gruber were credited with "Silent Night". Cont...

...Pastor Cathy Continued

As we celebrate the anniversary of this beloved carol throughout Advent and Christmas Eve, we will look at what stars and the darkness of night have to teach us. We will be accompanied visually by stars in our worship space, as we explore some of the wisdom featured in Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "Learning to Walk in the Dark".



On Sunday, December 16th, our children and a few adults will present "The Tiny Star" – adapted by our very own Neva Laurie-Berry from the book by Arthur Ginolfi. One day as I was talking to Neva about what we could do for a Christmas Pageant that might revolve around the theme of stars or night, Neva said, "A couple years ago you gave the kids Christmas books. We could possibly adapt the book Emma chose, "The Tiny Star". Neva went home, and shortly after, sent back a beautifully adapted script, complete with the history of a few of the stars in our solar system. This pageant will feature the star that led the shepherds and the Magi to behold the "Son of God, Love's pure light".

Join us for worship this Advent as we ponder the gifts the deep darkness of night has to offer us, and as we raise our voices in beloved Advent and Christmas carols throughout December, including "Silent Night, Holy Night".

Pastor Cathy



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**Epiphany Celebration - Sunday, January 6th at 5 p.m.**  
**Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a Soup Supper, making a few Epiphany crafts, walking a Celtic Spiral, and share in eating the King's Cake.**



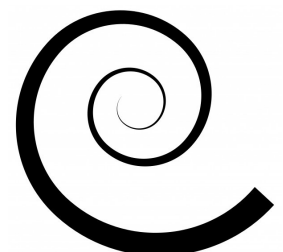
If you are able to help with any part of the evening, please let Pastor Cathy know. We will need folks to gather evergreen boughs, provide soup, help with crafts, and clean up.

We will start the evening with a soup supper and crafts, 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 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.

Pastor Cathy





# ***From Our President***



Welcome to Advent! December allows us the opportunity to both to reflect upon the year, and prepare for the Miracle of Christmas, the Hope of new birth and new possibility. Seems as good a theme for a newsletter article as any...

This has been an exciting, eventful year at UCUP! Much of the Board's time has been taken up with the joys of owning and maintaining an older building. From the Great Septic Crisis in January, to the joys of an indoor waterfall from the upstairs bathrooms, through the associated mold remediation in the lower classroom level, into repainting the building and resealing the parking lot, we have had the opportunity to invest again in the update and maintenance of our church home. Many thanks to Jim Cash, Don Thompson, Hank Thierry, and all the others on the Facilities committee for your hard work on these many projects, and others. Thanks also to Pastor Cathy and to Lynne for often being the first line response to these crises. Finally, my ongoing gratitude to the past and current members of the congregation who have left us with the financial reserves to manage these crises as they arose.

We have also invested in the more social and spiritual aspects of our church life, by coming together to help support the worship service with our new Worship Teams, continuing to grow the choir, and recruiting numerous loving volunteers continue to step up to teach our youth in Sunday School most weeks. UCUP remains a remarkably engaged and active community!

While 2018 was a very busy year, it was also, in many ways, a reactive one. Much of our energy was spent reacting to crises, rather than moving forward with plans. Now that so many of those have resolved, we hope to be more proactive in 2019. We have already begun in some ways, with yet another successful Stewardship campaign (with many thanks to Jim Cash, Marilyn Thompson, the Small's, Janet Wicks & Pamela Maddess), from which we have thus far received over \$128,000 in pledges for the coming year to support UCUP's budget and missions. The Board is finalizing the slate of officers prepared by the Nominations committee, to be approved at the Annual Meeting on January. And we are planning a church wide event to check in with the 10 year goals the congregation developed several years ago, with an eye to clarify our progress and next steps as a congregation. Look for this to be held in early 2019.

And so, as we celebrate the past, and plan for the future, it behooves us to take a moment to consider the present. To assess what, in our daily lives, we can do to care for ourselves and each other. As one concrete step we can take immediately, I would encourage us all to make a concerted effort to arrive at worship on time, or even a few minutes early. It has recently been pointed out that the pews are often largely empty until about 10:05, but that visitors often arrive early. It can be somewhat off-putting for them to see an empty sanctuary just before the service begins, despite how welcoming we are after the service. I am deeply aware of the log in my own eye as I point out the speck in the congregation's; nevertheless, I encourage us all to endeavor to arrive a bit earlier.

My continued appreciation to all of you who make this such a vibrant and loving community! You are what makes UCUP such a special place. Here's to another exciting Advent, and vibrant year at United Church in University Place!

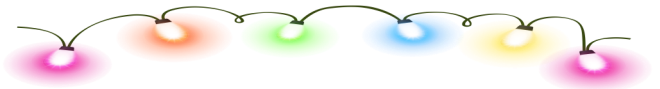
In Love,

Chris Berry  
President of the Congregation





## Joys & Concerns



During church on November 11<sup>th</sup>, we had Super Stewards encouraging us to turn our 2019 pledges in, THEN we had Super Soups (made by Super Cooks) after church in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to everyone that contributed to the meal, especially the 4 soup makers....and for the apple pie and ice cream.



Congratulations to the McCuiston's, who recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary...to 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Wes Berry (pictured left). Pastor Cathy presented him with his very own Bible on Sunday, November 18...and to Sharon Britcher who celebrated her birthday with us on the 18<sup>th</sup>—giving us a chance to sing Happy Birthday to her during Fellowship Time.

I was visiting (having lunch) with Win Bjarke at Toby Jones recently, when a lady came and stood by the table and said, 'Ladies I just moved in and I'm your new table mate. My name is Mary Church. OH, Mrs. Bjarke!'. Both Win and I recognized Mary, she's the daughter of the late, much loved, charter member of United Church, Helen Nelson.

Please hold Mary Jones in your prayers, she fell recently and is in Manor Care with a broken pelvis...Pat Rudolph suffering with respiratory and back problems...with Christmas coming, please remember those we've been missing in your prayers AND maybe with a note or card: Doris Larsen...Joan Martin...Billie Jo Morgan...Michael Marcoe...Yvonne Begeman...Donna Shoe...Michelle Wallace...Randi Byrd...Deb Howard... and Win Bjarke...



**My Sister's Pantry Item of the Month: Baby Food**



## Congratulations Wesley

On Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, Wesley Berry, one of our youngest disciples, was awarded his third grade Bible. Congratulations Wesley on this important spiritual moment in your life. Proud parents, Chris & Neva Berry, along with some of Wes's Sunday School teachers stood up with him during worship. Rosemary Jones shared a poignant story as she remembered that Wes, looking like an angel, was the symbolic Christ Child her first Christmas Eve at UCUP. How quickly our kids grow up!



I'd like to invite you to attend the **UP for Arts Holiday Gala on Friday, December 14, from 6:30pm-9pm** in the UP Civic/Library Atrium.

Enjoy great food, wine, holiday beverages and desserts along with a magical evening of holiday entertainment and a silent auction.

You can get a sneak peek online and actually start bidding on the silent auction items starting Friday, Nov. 23 at [www.upforarts.org](http://www.upforarts.org).

Online bidding continues until Tuesday, December 11. People who wish to continue bidding can do so by attending the Gala on Friday, December 14.

We have a lot of incredible auction items including a **Photo Safari to South Africa, boat tours, gourmet dinners, art, distillery tours and much, much more!**

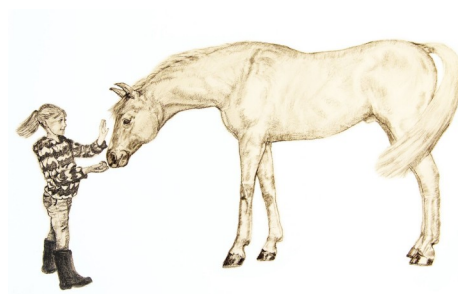
This is going to be a really fun event...you get to support public art in our community, avoid I-5 traffic and have a great time!

Tickets are \$65 online or you can buy them from me directly until Dec 11, then they are \$70 at the door.

All proceeds go toward the "Forever Friends" sculpture project for the Curran Apple Orchard Park.....please visit our website for more info!

Hope you can come! Let me know if you have questions!

Debbie Klosowski  
[kloslink@comcast.net](mailto:kloslink@comcast.net)  
253 565 8466



## December 2018



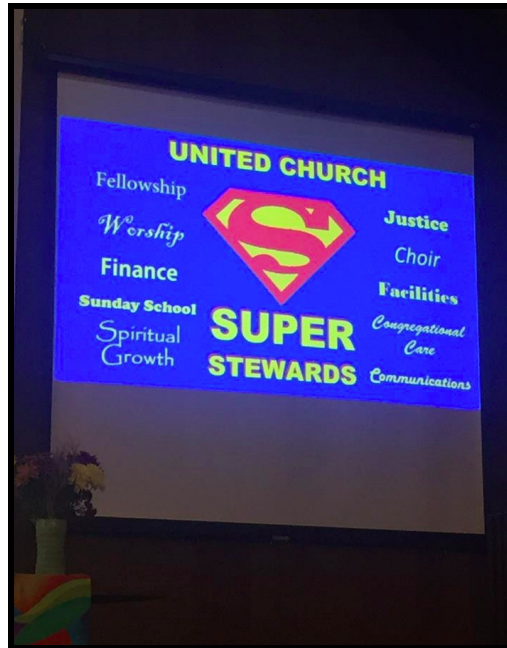
- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3 AJ Rowatt          | 20 Jeff Andersen     |
| 9 Jeff Gillard       | 22 Kathy Munn        |
| 9 Emily Hartley      | 24 Cathy Law         |
| 9 Marge Lehmann      | 25 Jesus of Nazareth |
| 10 Pat Mail          | 30 Linda Vanderbilt  |
| 12 Jane Wicks        | 31 Jim Cash          |
| 14 Jim Davis         |                      |
| 15 Tamaya Tereshkova |                      |
| 16 Neil Rader        |                      |
| 17 Duncan Foley      |                      |



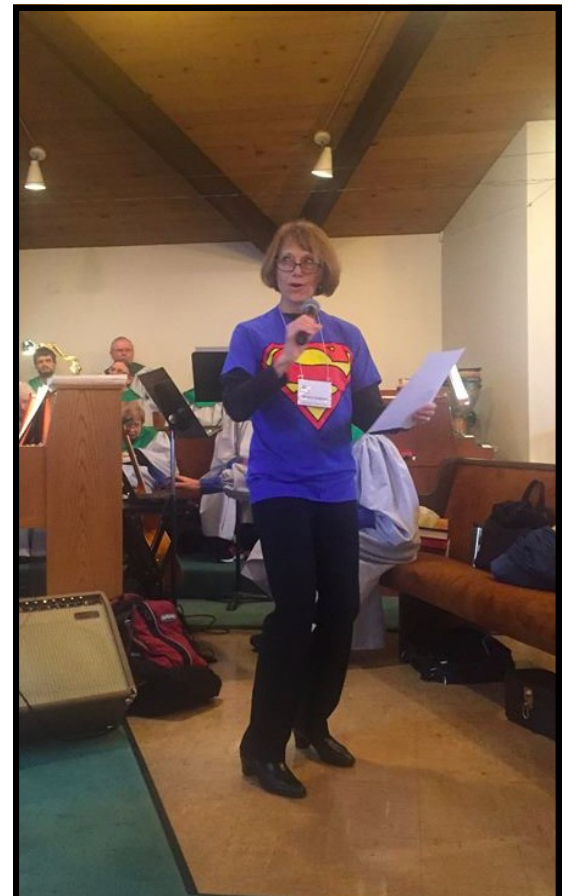


## Super Stewards At UCUP

Throughout the month of October, our church was blessed to receive testimonies from Super Stewards in our congregation. On the last Sunday of October, Super Stewards Tanya Sorenson & Joe Becker offered a powerful Stewardship testimony on why they give. On November 11th, Super Stewards Pamela Maddess, Janet Wicks, and Nancy Moffett with assistance from Fran Cash, put on a lovely Thankful Dinner complete with Super soups, including Super Manistrone. Many thanks to the Stewardship Committee (Jim Cash, Dennis & Ben Small, Don & Marilyn Thompson, and Janet Wicks) for your creative endeavors for our Stewardship Campaign this fall.



## UCUP's Stewardship Campaign



has been busy over the past month. On October 9, we held a Candidates' Forum at Lakewood Presbyterian Church. All four candidates for the state legislature were there, along with an attendance of approximately 70 constituents. The questioning was handled by the Rev. Barlow Buescher. Two of the questions were submitted by Linda Gaines and me (the district co-coordinators) and given to the candidates ahead of time. All other questions came from those in attendance. My feeling was there was great respect for all candidates, we would have been well-served by any of the four candidates, and those in attendance benefitted from hearing the candidates' views. Linda and I have done this for the past three elections, and we were very encouraged by this event.

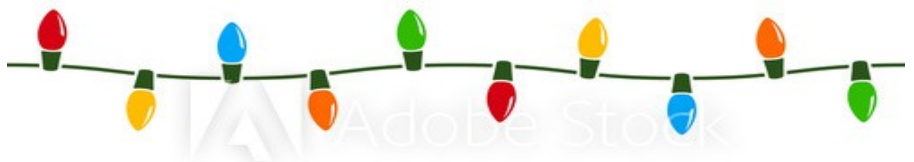
Immanuel Presbyterian Church is a relatively new member of the Faith Action Network, and they hosted a potluck dinner on October 20, in part, to meet other members of the network, and, in part, to show their members what FAN was about. The food was good, the information was excellent, and overall it was fun to take part. There were not any formal presentations other than short announcements, but one of the ways the sponsors found to get people to talk to each other was to have a black-out bingo game in which the purpose was to find people who knew certain things about the Faith Action Network. I know I talked to nearly everyone there because of that task.

On November 8, we had our cluster group meeting. This group is a collection of member churches in the greater Tacoma area. This event was held at Bethany Presbyterian Church. Two of the FAN coordinators, including our own Amber Dickson, led discussions about FAN's legislative agenda, gave information about our successes from this year, and asked us to discuss with each other about our interests and how we would choose to bend FAN's agenda. There were about 20 people in attendance.

And, finally, on November 18, we had the FAN Annual dinner and fundraising event. This was held in the very crowded Renton Pavilion. Among the honorees were Ron Young and Verlene Davis, who both won the legacy award. The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network each won the Justice Leadership Award. The Advocating Faith Communities award was given to Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church and First Congregational Church of Bellevue. Mary Stamp, attending a simultaneous dinner in Spokane received the Interfaith Leadership Award. The keynote speaker, Pramila Jayapal, was excellent. Rick Steves spoke again of the ripples of change that FAN is making in helping the world bend toward justice. He also spoke of foreign travel as one of the great ways to find out how people think of this nation. In addition, he committed to match gifts up to \$50,000 given at this event. The response from the gathered group was to raise upwards of \$70,000. Thus, it was a fulfilling evening, spent with like-minded people of diverse faiths, allowing the Faith Action Network to continue its work. Those attending from UCUP included Jim & Nancy Davis, Angie Wolle, Pastor Cathy, Aubrey Elliott, Neil & Norma Rader, Papa, and me. Linda Gaines and two members from St. Leo's Catholic Church rounded out our table of ten.

Our next event is the Interfaith Action Day of Lobbying in Olympia. That is scheduled for Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14, 2019. To find the legislative agenda, look at [fanwa.org](http://fanwa.org) on the internet, or speak with me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert M. Brown





The Tacoma Community House programming is expanding with a successful and continuing Capital funds campaign. The photo below shows the ground that has been broken for the new building. TCH is one of UCUP's benevolences.



The UN WOMEN report released this month, educates on violence against women and girls. The brief video in the link below educates across the 5 main categories of violence. Several of our benevolences address violence against women.

<http://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/infographic/violenceagainstwomen/en/index.html#closing-6>



### **Lead the Way Home - Associated Ministries Fundraising Breakfast**

Many thanks to Ruth Cannon for organizing a crew from UCUP to be in attendance for Associated Ministries' fundraising Breakfast - "Lead the Way Home". This event never fails to inspire as our hearts are moved to make a difference in big and small ways. It is also a great interfaith gathering, and an opportunity to see friends and partners in this important work across the county.

**Photo** (L to R): Ruth Cannon, Jim Cash, Joyce Demarest, Robert Brown, Marilyn Thompson, Pastor Cathy.

(Not in photo: Don Thompson)





## Letter in our November 2018 Newsletter



It was with great interest that Bobby and I read the letter from PCAF. Bobby and I had been involved with the AIDS Foundation since it first started in Seattle. This was before the march started in Tacoma.

I had worked with a wonderful young man who died of AIDS at the age of 26. Todd had contracted AIDS from his beloved partner who was one of the first to die. The medicine they had to take was in a word awful and so many patients had a hard time tolerating it. Todd was such a good person and to see how he suffered was almost too hard to bear. When we were on our marches, we saw how very much these mostly young men suffered and the bravery with which they fought this disease.

Thank God for all the new advances in medicine since that ghastly time. At first people were hesitant to donate to the AIDS foundation but soon that changed. We were able to collect thousands of dollars in donations. One year alone we were able, with our son's help, collected over \$40,000 in advertising and donations to help in the fight to find a cure.

A lady that Bobby worked with was moving out of state and didn't want to take her furniture, so Bobby asked her if she wanted to donate it to the Three Cedars, the Tacoma home that AIDS patients lived in. She did, and we delivered the furniture to the Three Cedars. People were so wonderful and so many wanted to help.

As the years went on a lot people thought HIV-AIDS was no longer a threat. Donations became harder to collect. We worked as long as we could. But eventually we became involved in many other causes.

We were so please to see the letter from PCAF and to know that there will always be wonderful people to step up where they are needed.

With many thanks,  
Pat and Bob



### Peace and Justice

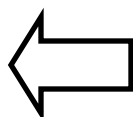


Look for alternative gift giving this year at tables in the narthex. Donations to our charities continue through your generosity.

Thank you  
Judy Thierry







~~~~~

Miss Sophia butterfly and Mr. Don cocoon
of Church World Service ask for your generous donations this advent.





Every Sunday—10am Worship Service
10:15am Elementary Sunday School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 1st Sunday Of Advent	3 	4 10am CC Mtg. 1pm Alz Mtg	5 12pm Brown Baggers Bible Study & Lunch  6:30 Finance	6 7:30—9:pm Choir Rehearsal	7 	8
9 2nd Sunday Of Advent 	10 6:30pm Board 	11 	12 12pm Brown Baggers Bible Study & Lunch 	13 7:30—9:pm Choir Rehearsal	14 	15 
16 3rd Sunday Of Advent Crèches & Pageant	17 	18 19 6:30pm Men's Group 	19 12pm Brown Baggers Bible Study & Lunch 	20 7pm Blue Xmas Service 7:30—9:pm Choir Rehearsal	21 6:30pm Play, Boogie & Jam Night	22 
23 Xmas Cantata 30 No Choir	24 7pm Celtic Xmas Eve Service Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 12pm Brown Baggers Bible Study & Lunch 	27 No Choir Rehearsal	28 	29



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

Newsletter

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December 1, 2018

**United Church In
University Place**

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Weekly

Sundays

10am Worship Service
With Rev. Cathlynn Law

10:15am Elementary Sunday
School (5yrs to 11yrs)

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 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