

February 2019

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**

Shrove Tuesday / Mardi Gras Celebration on Sunday, March 3rd

We will celebrate the end of the season of Epiphany and the beginning of Lent with a pancake feast following worship on Sunday, March 3rd. 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, and burning the palms from Palm Sunday 2018 for our Ash Wednesday service.

NEEDED: a couple egg casserole dishes; fruit platters; pancake mixers and flippers; and help in the kitchen. If you are able to help with the festivities, talk to Pastor Cathy.



Ash Wednesday March 6th

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 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.



As we prepare for our 40-day journey of Lent, we "turn around" (the root meaning of the word "repent") from the distractions of daily noise and focus our attention on listening in a deeper way. Writer Parker Palmer suggests we must listen "to what our life is telling us", to listen to the deep wisdom God gave to us as a birthright, connecting to God's purpose once again

From Pastor Cathy

While UCUP is a church made up of people from many different denominational and spiritual backgrounds, we support and are supported by the ministries of two separate denominations: the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church. Some of you may be following what is occurring within the UMC. In three weeks, there will be some decisions made that may have lasting impacts on this worldwide denomination and how inclusive we will be regarding human sexuality.

In 1972, four years after the merger between the Methodist Episcopal and Evangelical United Brethren Church, the UMC wrote "social principles" to guide our engagement and witness in the world. Ever since, we have disagreed about human sexuality. Should the Church bless marriage between people of the same gender? Should the Church ordain persons who are - as the Book of Discipline states - "self-identified homosexuals?" What does the Bible say? How do we discern God's will for our time?

People with strong convictions on both sides have left the church. Others continue to fight for the soul of the UMC, with many becoming weary of the conflict. During the 2016 General Conference in Portland, this conflict boiled over into angry protests and chaotic outbursts. A Commission on the Way Forward was formed to allow space for a wider diversity of belief regarding human sexuality.

A Special General Conference will be held February 23-26 in St. Louis, Missouri. A few plans will be presented, with many anticipated amendments. The Bishops and delegates of the Western Jurisdiction support the One Church Plan. Here is part of their statement: *"As children of God, we have traveled together, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to a place of full inclusion of all persons (including LGBTQ) in the ministry of the church. At the same time, we recognize that we are not all of one mind about these matters. We affirm our unity in Christ and commit ourselves to live together as one body, though we do not understand God's will in the same way. We believe this plan provides a vision big enough to hold our diversity, creating space for us to live our conscience faithfully. We believe that this plan has the potential to allow for contextual differentiation, and balance an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with as much unity as possible."*

From Dr. Randall Miller, Layperson in Cal-Nevada on behalf of Reconciling Ministries Network: *After 47 years of struggle for LGBTQ inclusion – of inching forward and being pushed back – we arrived at a showdown. Under the threat of schism, the Church called on the Council of Bishops to lead. A group of increasingly intolerant conservatives under the leadership of several hard-line bishops fashioned a plan that would, if implemented, give conservative groups unprecedented control over church life at every level, while allowing those of us who disagree to pursue a "gracious" exit. In the face of pressures to dissolve the UMC or embrace a false unity, my commitment is to alleviate the suffering of LGBTQ people within the UMC. I have been transformed by the presence of Christ and the love of friends in the UMC and I will fight and pray for its soul. I'm deeply awed and renewed in the struggle to make the Church a place where all are welcome and included, and no one is lonely or isolated. For me, this begins with matters of sexual orientation and race and leads me into solidarity with the struggle for women, people of developing nations, and others.*

From Bishop Elaine Stanovsky of the Greater Northwest Area: *"No matter what happens at the General Conference, God needs us to get involved in the needs of the people we serve in our neighborhoods and around the world. We don't have to remain stuck or wait passively for the General Conference to decide. We can choose life right now. We can turn to God and to one another and step out into the communities we serve in life-affirming ways. We can prepare for a season of renewal."*

Please be in prayer with me for whatever decisions are made at this Special Session of the General Conference of the UMC.

Pastor Cathy

From Our President



United Church in University Place's Annual Congregational Meeting and Charge Conference was held after church on Sunday, January 13. As with so many things at UCUP, I had not realized how much work goes into making the Annual Meeting work until I was in the position to make it happen.

Many thanks to Robert Brown and Pastor Cathy for setting up tables, to Don Morgan for running sound, to the various members of Robert's Worship Support Team for bringing together food for our lunch, and to Addie Harding for entertaining the kids so we could focus on the business of the meeting. Many thanks to Pastor Cathy and Marilyn & Don Thompson for printing and compiling the Year-End Report booklets, which is a major job! Jim Davis and Rev. Leslie Ann Knight for serving as UMC Elders in the stead of our District Superintendent. Thanks to Hank Thierry, Cindy Bode and any others I didn't see for taking on the clean-up duties spontaneously; the work was nearly done by the time the meeting was over!

Many thanks to all of the Committee Chairs for the work you have so faithfully done this past year and at the meeting in guiding the work of our church, and for your year-end reports to help summarize the accomplishments and goals of our work in 2018. I would like to especially call out the work Jim Cash and the Finance Committee has done to pull together our 2019 Budget (year-end is always a challenging time), and to the members of the Nominations Committee for helping to thoughtfully and prayerfully develop and recruit an excellent slate of officers for 2019. And thank you to all of you who were able to attend and give prayerful consideration to your questions, comments, and votes on our officers and 2019 budget!

As I look into the coming year, I am aware that we will have challenges to face, both those we can predict and those we cannot. The future is always daunting, but is also always the birthplace of hope! This community of ours has tremendous talent, dedication, passion, and strength. As long as we can continue to encourage each other, assume goodwill in each other even when we disagree, and work to listen as much, if not more, than we talk, we can continue to grow and overcome and improve! I look forward to continuing that journey with you all!

In Hope,
Chris Berry
President of the Congregation

February 2019



8 Neva Laurie-Berry
16 Dorothy McCuistion
18 Helen Engle
21 Soren Fohrman—12
(29) Win Bjarke





Joys & Concerns

The Cares & Concerns Committee would like to wish Lynne Jenk-Dudschus a happy retirement...and thank her for all the help she gave our committee during the years she worked as office manager for United Church. **THANKS LYNNE!**

Writing of 'thanks', we all should thank Hank and Judith Thierry for the baby grand piano that Jeff Andersen is now making beautiful music on...Robert Brown for keeping the 'lit' brown jug' full of his much loved shortbread...Addy Harding for being a faithful helper with the church school each Sunday...and to Chris Berry for agreeing to be the Board president for a 2nd year.

Our congratulations go out to Hank & Judy Thierry on the birth of their first grandchild, born to Katie & Mike on January 29th. Our sympathy and prayers for comfort go out to Emily and Jenny Hartley on the recent death of their sister Ann, to Christine Crossley on the recent death of her grandmother in Texas, to Roger Martin on the death of his sister in California, and to Cathi Cline on the death of her uncle... Both Roger and Christine are traveling to be with family this week. Please put Neil & Norma Rader's son and David Engle (Helen's son) on your prayer list, they're both having surgery...Chris Berry's father undergoing treatment for cancer...Cindy Bodie and Cathi Cline's son-in-law job hunting, Please continue to pray for those unable to be with us on Sundays and for other events: Win Bjarke...Michael Marcoe...Yvonne Bergeman...Donna Shoe...Michelle Wallace...Randi Byrd...Deb Howard...Billie Jo Morgan....Doris Larsen..

Some 30 folks gathered for the Epiphany Celebration on January 6th and I think it's safe to say that a good time was had by all. But I think only a few of us saw something really nice happen. When it was time to walk the spiral of evergreens Robert Brown was helping his father-in-law, who had a cane in one hand and a lit candle in the other, when Jeremiah Bodie went over and carried the candle for 'PaPa'. Seeing it was very moving...what great kids we have at United Church.
Submitted by Joyce Demarest

UP for Arts - Spring 2019 Arts & Concerts Series

Extraordinary classical and bluegrass music paired with outstanding award winning artists are in store for audiences at **UP for Arts Spring 2019 Arts & Concerts Series.**

Friday, February 22-

Pacific Northwest Chamber Ensemble featuring Carson Farley, Ian McKnight and Clement Reid performing a refreshing mix of Classical and Blue Grass Music.

Featured Artist—Judith Lilly whose unique jewelry designs have won numerous awards including the coveted Double Grand Championship at the Washington State Fair.

All events occur on Friday nights from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the University Place Civic/Library Atrium located at 3609 Market Square (36th and Bridgeport).
Each performance pairs performing artists with visual artists.
Free parking is available underneath the library

Family Housing Network

Family Housing Network is reportedly gearing up to resume operations under a new model that has its homeless families changing locations less often, but still needing help with meals supplied by the churches and other volunteers who formerly also provided shelter.

Alan Brown of Catholic Community Services explains in an email forwarded to UCUP program volunteers that the weekly moving from place to place was costing the families too much time and money in having to shift transportation and other arrangements each week.

The families are being sheltered currently at Bethlehem Baptist Church on East Portland Ave., and the new plan is to recruit teams of volunteers from other churches to bring evening meals and provide hosting services at that location. One significant change is that the program will now use paid staff as "overnight hosts," which were often difficult to find among volunteers at many of the churches.

But due to City of Tacoma regulations, the shelter can remain at Bethlehem Baptist only until March 20, and the search is already on for another area venue, ideally one capable of sheltering five families for a period of six months.

We've been asked to consider being that venue. I said I could see significant complications for us, that I considered the chances of our being able to do so no better than fair, but that I would raise the question.

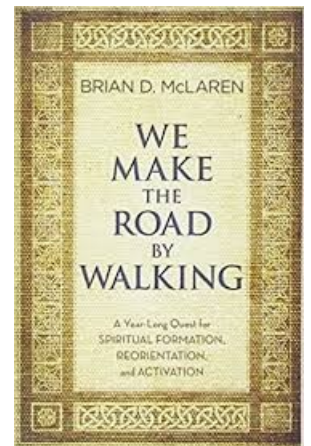
It seems likely that initially at least churches will be recruited to supply a week's worth of evening meals and hosts, and given the response we had when we were preparing to shelter the families in September, I've told the agency they can count on us for a week. If we feel

We Make the Road by Walking Book Study -

Wednesdays 6:30pm February 6th & 13th

By the time you read this, we will have finished two sessions and will have at least two more.

Each chapter stands on its own so feel free to come when you can. If there is enough interest we will choose whether to continue this particular book. I have heard Brian McClaren speak in person several times and he is a gifted speaker, pastor and author who has written many books on spirituality. I am asking us to come together to read this book because it is a request of UMC Bishop Elaine Stanovsky of the Greater Northwest region for all United Methodist Churches to embark on a study of the entire book or parts of it.



Peace and Justice

Undoing Racism Workshop - People's Institute Northwest

February 7-8 and February 21-22, 2019

There are currently 10 slots available in the February 7-8th and in the February 21-22nd Undoing Racism Workshops due to cancellations. The workshop will be held at Plymouth Church UCC, 1217 Sixth Avenue in Downtown Seattle. If you are interested, please send an email to Debbie Green with the participant name, address, telephone, email address and organization name.

pinwseattle@yahoo.com

Submitted by Robert Brown



FAN NEWS

On February 14, Faith Action Network is sponsoring its Interfaith Action Day in Olympia. This is a chance to learn about the issues nearest and dearest to FAN and to take those messages to our lawmakers. The day in Olympia officially starts at 9:00 AM, however, there is a check-in process that takes a while and there are treats to be enjoyed prior to the opening event in the sanctuary, so getting there by 8:30 at the latest is recommended by me. Depending on what legislative district you live in, you will have meetings with your legislators usually some time in the afternoon.

We meet in teams according to our legislative district in the morning to process for ourselves what are the important messages to deliver and possibly get around to deciding who might be best at delivering a particular topic. This is important because we only have 15-minute meetings with each legislator to get our points across. We also attend, in the morning, small seminars on the topics of our choice. It is usually a very informative day as well as one in which we express our power as citizens and Christians.

Please tell me whether you intend to attend. I will try to help arrange carpools as needed. There is a fee of \$15, which pays for a lunch. You may register for the day directly with FAN at fanwa.org, or you may write a check to the church and have me register you. Either way works well. I know for sure as of this writing that Judy Thierry and I are going. I hope we have more involvement on this day.



Dorothy McCuiston with Lori McDonald, co leader with Teri Mattsen for the Tacoma Chapter.

Days for Girls

The tremendous quality control and design of the shields which hold the pads means they can last 3 to 4 years.

We are accepting thread, new 100% cotton and flannel material.

Judy Thierry On behalf of Peace and Justice

Office Staff Transition

We said a fond farewell to Lynne on January 24 upon her resignation after 7 years of holding down the fort in the UCUP church office. We wish her the very best! If you didn't get a chance to say goodbye, feel free to leave a note in the office, and we will make sure she receives it.

Lynne's last couple of days were busy helping ensure a smooth transition by handing off information to congregation members and Pastor Cathy. We are grateful for her patient teaching regarding the many duties of the job, and to Marilyn Thompson, Tom Milligan, Cathi Cline and Don Thompson for taking the time to ensure continuity with important tasks.

SPR is pleased to let you know that we have found an interim office administrator, just up the street. Gretchen Engle (yes, daughter of member Helen) has agreed to fill the job through the end of February, while SPR and Finance work to identify a long-term person. You might know Gretchen through her work with the Methodist Conference Office, the Mountaineers, or First Methodist.



If you get a chance, please stop by the office to offer her a warm UCUP welcome. Her hours will be Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM. The office will continue to not be staffed on Tuesdays.

SPR Committee members and Pastor Cathy would be happy to hear any thoughts you might have about the transition. Please contact any one of us listed below.

Laura Giddings, Chair

Leslie Ann Knight, Judy Thierry, Nancy Moffett, Tom Milligan, Joe Becker, Christine Long

Epiphany at UCUP

At our **Epiphany Spiral Service** we ate soup, sang a few Christmas Carols, walked the Evergreen Spiral leading us into the season of Epiphany, and ate a piece of King's Cake. We have newly crowned "wise ones" for the year - Cheryl Stone, Jeremiah Bodie-Palamidy, and Joyce Demarest. Many thanks to Marilyn, Neva, Nancy, and Robert for set-up; Don Thompson for clean-up; Don Morgan - sound; Leslie Ann - music; Nancy - King's Cake; Cathi, Ardie, Don Morgan, and Kay - soup makers.



My Sister's Pantry News



A dozen folks from UCUP joined other volunteers from JBLM on January 26th to help serve clients at the Pantry. Thanks to Ruth Cannon for faithfully organizing us every time we serve and to Peter Burhop, Sharon Britcher, Cathy Dimmerman, Renee Gillard, Rosemary Jones, Pat Mail, Tom Milligan, Don & Marilyn Thompson, and Hank Thierry for showing up.



HAPPY NEW YEAR! EMERGENCY FOOD NETWORK



From all of us at Emergency Food Network, we wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

\$1,597.61 UCUP
CHRISTMAS EVE COLLECTION

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many in 2018. With your help, we were able to provide more than 14 million pounds of food for our neighbors in need throughout Pierce County.

From all of us at Emergency Food Network, we wish you a happy and healthy New Year! \$1,597.61 UCUP Christmas EVE COLLECTION.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many in 2018. With your help, we were able to provide more than 14 million

pounds of food for our neighbors in need throughout Pierce County



My Sister's Pantry Item of the Month: Jams and Jellies

Recently My Sister's Pantry received a large quantity of peanut butter, so Martha Curwen, Pantry Director, suggested that collecting jams and jellies might be a good idea.

Please remember that your donations must be **store bought**, because of health rules. Keep your home made jams and jellies at home for your own use, and use the grocery store for your donated items.

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

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 10am Congregational Care Mtg	6 12pm Brown Baggers Bible Study & Lunch 6:30pm Finance	7 7:30—9:pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10	11 6:30pm Board	12	13 12pm Brown Baggers Bible Study & Lunch 	14 7:30—9:pm Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30pm P,B & Jam Night Bring your in- struments!	16
17	18 Presidents Day—Office Closed	19 6:30pm Men's Group in the Youth Wing	20 12pm Brown Baggers Bible Study & Lunch 	21 7:30—9:pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24	25	26	27 12pm Brown Baggers Bible Study & Lunch 	28 7:30—9:pm Choir Rehearsal		



Church Contact

(253) 564-2754
office@ucup.org
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Church Employees

Rev. Cathlynn Law
Music Director: Jeff Andersen
Nursery Attendant: Addy Harding
Temp. Office Admin: Gretchen Engle



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**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



God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

