

# March 2019

## United Church Newsletter

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

A United Church of Christ, a United Methodist Church &  
an LGBTQIA welcoming Congregation  
in University Place, Washington



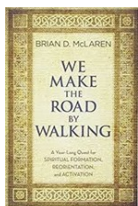
### FAT TUESDAY

## Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday Pancake Feast 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 at 11:30am. There will be pancake races, mask-making, and coloring Alleluia banners, and burning the palms for our Ash Wednesday service.

## Ash Wednesday March 6th at 7 PM

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.



## Lenten Soup Suppers & Study - We Make the Road by Walking

Wednesday evenings 6-8pm - March 13, 20, 27, April 3 & 10

Join us as we make our way through the portions of Brian McLaren's book - "We Make the Road By Walking" that focus on Lent and Holy Week. We gather with a simple meal of soup and bread and fellowship, and then will move into discussion, study, and prayer. If you can help with bringing soup, or finger foods, the sign up sheet will be in the Narthex or talk to Cathi Cline or Pastor Cathy.



## Worship and Sermon Series during Lent - The Seven Deadly Needs

You've likely heard of the Seven Deadly Sins, developed in the 5th century by the early church. (gluttony, lust, greed, anger, acedia/sloth, envy, and pride). But this Lent, we'll explore the **Seven Deadly Needs**. They are, perhaps, more subtle than the famous Sins, but just as dangerous – and don't enhance relational harmony with others, oneself or with God. The series will be based on Edward Bear's book, *The Seven Deadly Needs*, but takes a secular idea and explores it from an attitude of discipleship. The seven deadly needs listed below can get you in the same kind of trouble as the 7 deadly sins. Digging for information that's not your business, having over the top reactions, allowing ego infestations to affect your life, setting yourself up as judge and jury are a few of

the 7 deadly needs. The needs themselves are not evil – what makes them deadly is that we are tempted to use these things to fill space in our lives that should be reserved for God.

**The Need to be Right • The Need to Know • The Need to Judge • The Need to get Even  
The Need to Keep Score • The Need to Look Good • The Need to Control**

## ***From Pastor Cathy***

The United Methodist Church made countless headlines this week in the Seattle Times, NPR, New York Times and countless other news organizations in the worst possible way, as the global UMC adopted even more restrictive language with even more punitive consequences for LGBTQ clergy, and clergy who choose to officiate at same gender weddings; and punitive consequences for Bishops who refuse to uphold the Book of Discipline. For the very first time in my 17 years of ministry the thought occurred to me, "I could lose my ordination because of who I am and who I chose to be my life-partner and spouse." That was a sobering thought. And it turns out the conservative take-over of this denomination has adopted the "Traditionalist Plan", even as the Judicial Council will most likely find it largely unconstitutional.

While I know that God's grace is bigger than any one denomination, I am soul-weary and sad for the heart and soul of the UMC. For 12 of the 17 years I have been a pastor, I served in silence in an unofficial "Don't ask, don't tell" denomination. Five years ago I invoked the spiritual practice of testimony on Transfiguration Sunday after consulting and discerning with leadership about whether the church was ready to receive my story. At the time my decision to be "closeted" was more about not splitting the church I was serving apart, than fear that charges could be brought against me and I could be brought up on trial. Thankfully, I am one of the "lucky" ones serving in a conference that has become more accepting with each passing year. I have been truly blessed to have had the support of Bishop Grant Hagiya, Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, and ALL my District Superintendents. But that isn't the case for many of the hidden faithful who serve in less accepting conferences.

The decision made at General Conference 2019 is not reflective of the values and ministry of the Pacific Northwest Conference or the Western Jurisdiction (comprising conferences from the Rocky Mountains to the west). Our conference is becoming known for its inclusiveness and welcome for all God's children.

The Western Jurisdiction and the PNW will continue to commit ecclesiastical disobedience to take a stand against the ugly exclusive actions taken today by the global church. Thankfully, this church, United Church in University Place, a UMC/UCC congregation, will continue to welcome and be in ministry to all people - and to LGBTQIA+ sisters and brothers who have been told by the UMC that they are somehow unworthy of full acceptance. I am grateful to be in ministry at such an accepting, hospitable, welcoming church. You welcomed Angie and me into ministry with open arms and hearts, and we continue to be profoundly grateful.

Rev. Cathy Law

Please read below various statements and reflections.

### **From the Western Jurisdiction Bishops and Delegates**

We have long appreciated the richness of the global diversity of our United Methodist Church and have embraced opportunities to join with you all in the work of making disciples for the transformation of the world. We also understand the purpose of the Church to be in mission and ministry. Consequently, we in the West have been functioning for years as One Church committed to full inclusion, seeking to be a home for all God's people. Today we acknowledge the fracture of this body, yet we worship a God who tells us that the body of Christ has many parts, all equally valued. Rooted in Wesleyan tradition, grounded in Scripture and committed to mission and ministry, the Western Jurisdiction intends to continue to be one church, fully inclusive and open to all God's children, across the theological and social spectrum.

### **From President Jeffrey Kuan - my Seminary Professor at PSR who is now President of Claremont School of Theology**

After four days in St. Louis, MO, as one of 864 delegates to The UMC's special Session of the General Conference, I am angry and heartbroken by the decision of the body not only to continue its injustices toward our LGBTQIA community but also to strengthen the prohibitions and punishments for those clergypersons who do not uphold the injustice.

I am heartbroken for the church universal, and for clergy members of this institution, and for future leaders. This conference was supposed to lead a divided church on a path forward, but instead we took a giant step backward.

I am angry about the politics that were employed before and during this conference. I am angry about the ways the Bible has been, and continues to be, weaponized against people of God. And I am angry about the time, money, and energy that have been expended over the last forty-seven years to hurt and divide us. The decisions that were made this week have inflicted violence on the body of Christ, and that trauma will be felt for generations.

In spite of this or because of this, I am more resolved than ever to work toward a church that is inclusive for all – in the pews and in the pulpit. Though weary, heartbroken, and angry, I am not without hope. There is much work ahead, but we are not alone. Those of us in the Western Jurisdiction (and others across the denomination) will continue to live out a One Church spirit, no matter the cost.

And without a doubt, Claremont School of Theology will continue to be an institution not only inclusive to the LGBTQIA community, but also deeply and ardently committed to demonstrating, teaching, and advocating for God’s love and mercy to all creation. We will continue to recognize the gifts of LGBTQIA people and to provide the kind of theological education that encourages, supports, and prepares Christian leaders to live out a calling faithful to a just and love-filled Gospel.

Together, we will continue to work to repair the brokenness in our hearts, in our congregations, and in our communities.

**From Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker (member of PNW conference, former President of Starr King School of Theology, and author of many books, including “Saving Paradise” which Brown Bag Bible Study will be reading on Wednesdays)**

The Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church had the last word at today's otherwise heart-breaking General Conference, joyfully proclaiming that the Western Jurisdiction will continue to be an inclusive church. This means, in effect, the whole Western region is prepared to joyfully commit ecclesiastical disobedience as a body, keeping faith with LGBTQIA clergy and laity in dissent from the repressive actions taken today by the legislative actions of the General Conference. There IS a balm in Gilead! My people.

SPRC News

SPRC is delighted to share that Gretchen will remain as interim office administrator through the end of April. We are very grateful! SPRC is working on updating the position description, in order to begin advertising in early March. If you have any thoughts on the role, please share them with a member of SPRC: Nancy Moffett, Judy Thierry, Christine Crossley, Joe Becker, Tom Milligan, Leslie Ann Knight, and Laura Giddings, Chair.



March

4 Dennis Small

11 Roger Martin

14 Jimmy Bodie-11yrs

16 Susan Kelly

    Allison Milligan

29 Cecelia Shilling







## Joys & Concerns

Hope everyone enjoyed our February '19 snow days! I was not one of them, but heard that 20some braved the snowy streets and joined Pastor Cathy on Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup>. Want to thank Dorothy McCuistion for the daffodils she bought to share on the 17<sup>th</sup>, a sign that spring is coming!

Dorothy McCuistion is home, recovery from knee surgery, please keep her in your prayers...along with Allen Munn, recovering from the surgery he had in early February...Helen Engle, recovering from a fall and Shirley Paulson, being kept home with a cold...for Ardie Herbel's granddaughter, Beth, she had surgery on February 14<sup>th</sup> and has been in the hospital since with infections.

In the mid '80s United Church sponsored the Reap Khou family (parents and 6 children), refugee from Cambodia. They settled in South Tacoma and received help from a number of us for several years, as they learned English and 'the ways' of living in this country. Word has been received that the father is now in Hospice care, please keep him and the whole Khou family in your prayers.

Submitted by Joyce Demarest

### Reaching spiritual seekers in your community

from United Methodist Communications

#### Who are they?

- Seekers are more likely to be female than male (6 out of 10 are female)
- A large proportion are unmarried (42% married, 58% single)
- About half have kids under 18 (47% Children <18, 53% No children)
- Seekers are a diverse population (65% Caucasian, 22% Hispanic, 18% Black, 5% Asian, 4% Other)

#### What are they looking for in a church?

- Knowing that everyone will be welcoming: 32%
- Making friends and nurturing relationships: 29%
- Support during difficult times: 28%
- Finding out more about God: 27%

Genuine community is the top driver of continued attendance. 3 out of 4 say friendly and welcoming people and feeling part of a community make them want to continue to attend a church.



It was a snow day for many congregations in Western Washington, as multiple congregations called off worship services on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Not UCUP. In a lull between snowstorms, 28 hearty folks gathered to worship. Below are a few photos of our church worshipping in the midst of a rare snowstorm in the PNW. Thank you to Duncan Foley for the outside photo of our church in the snow, and to Judy Thierry for inside photos as we worshipped together.



## 4th Sunday Forum

February's 4th Sunday forum hosted by the Greening Committee brought together over 15 UCUP members to discuss faithful advocacy as fostered through Earth Ministries to which UCUP is a member. Jessica Zimmerle, a seminary student at Seattle University, and Kathy Holmes from Earth Ministries in one brief hour laid out the local and state issues that call people of faith to environmental justice and action. We discussed:

- Stool leg #1: What does your individual faith require of you in caring for the earth?
- Stool leg #2: What is UCUP's moral foundation for environmental justice?
- Stool leg #3: How can we use our individual and collective voice now and here in Washington?

The 100% clean electricity Senate Bill 5116/House Bill 1211 need your voice among other earth ministry legislative priorities for 2019 the processes of which extend out to 2045 — yes! 25 years from now.

Know your district number for your state senator and representative(s) and contact information. Call, leave phone messages, send emails and hand written individual letters by US post. One small voice equals 100 voices, seven messages or letters are enough to move a representative's understanding and vote.

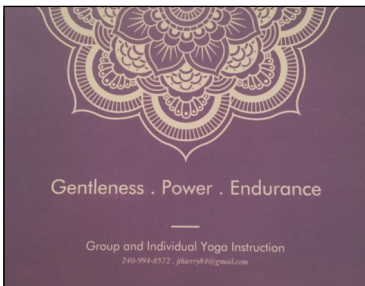
Earth Letters posted on the bulletin board take up all the facets of faithful stewardship of God's creation.

A one page handout on how to share your story with a legislator begins with "I am a person of faith and a member of United Church in University Place. As a person of faith I value...caring for the earth, working together, treating all people with dignity and respect, honesty and integrity, safety over profit, leaving a better world for future generations, fairness and equity, real democracy, responsibility.... please support the following:

- 100% electricity
- a clean fuel standard
- the oil spill prevention act
- the pollution prevention for our future act
- the reusable bag act.

Reduce reuse recycle and pre-cycle. Amen!

Judith Thierry on behalf of Roger Martin and the Greeting Committee



### Yoga for all

Find your breath through gentle yoga weekdays T/W/Th in the UCUP youth wing from 1 to 2 p.m. or 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. beginning Tuesday, March 5 . Questions: Contact Judy Thierry 240-994-8572 for free individual or group instruction. Chairs and props will be supplied for fun, restful and restorative poses. Connect with your body, mind and spirit. Bring your sense of wonder and wear loose clothing. All ages. Wheelchair access.

## Donations for infants and mothers in the Catholic Community Services program continue

Can you imagine being a young mom and not holding the purse strings, having perhaps to share some of your WIC voucher food with the rest of the family? We know babies require a lot of time (love) and attention and diapers, wipes, car seats and none are an inexpensive item nowadays. Half of the children born in the state of Washington are eligible for Medicaid. We have however been able to find at thrift shops some inexpensive strollers - cleaned up and ready to go they make an exceptional item for a new mom and baby as you see to the right.



## Shop at Fred Meyer and help My Sister's Pantry!

Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to My Sister's Pantry, and every time you use your Rewards Card when shopping, you will be earning a donation to the Pantry from Freddy's. Easy as pie! Go to [Freddy's Community Rewards page](#), log in (or sign up!), then search for us by our name or by our non-profit number, HX403. Learn more [here](#).

### My Sister's Pantry Item of the Month: Coffee (ground or instant) & Tea

This month My Sister's Pantry could use coffee (ground or instant-no beans) and tea. Please remember that your donations must be **store bought**, because of health rules.



## University Place Community Garden

How is your kale growing?

University Place Community Garden invites you to their Monday, March 18, 7 to 8:30 PM general meeting in the UCUP Orchard Room. Master Gardener lead education on gardening tips and do's as we enter the 2019 season will bring out your green thumb. Plant your asparagus and potatoes now. Bring your questions about back door, container gardening and even share some seeds in our swap. Memberships for a 4x12 full sun garden plot at the community garden at Evergreen Primary School are also available.

[www.UniversityPlacecommunitygarden.org](http://www.UniversityPlacecommunitygarden.org) is a 501c3 nonprofit.

Photo shows several varieties of winter hearty kale, very sweet this year!

Questions contact Judith Thierry 240-994-8572 or [infoUpcg@gmail.com](mailto:infoUpcg@gmail.com)



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## Peace and Justice

Peace and Justice has a new chair, Christine Crossley. We are thrilled that in her busy life, commuting to Seattle in her work with Catholic Community Services she will be taking on leading the committee. Please join us for our Sunday, March 3, after worship. We will be discussing the hosting of 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Forums in 2019. There are a variety of issues that could use your input.

Do you have P&J topics you want to learn more about? Let us know! We are considering hearing from immigrants first hand, listening to women who have been sheltered and perhaps partnering with Faith and Formation on opportunities to learn about sexuality education across the lifespan. You can read below on the content found in the OWL Program. *Our Whole Lives designed by the Unitarian Universalist Association has an established MOU with the UCC. Browse this website: <https://www.uua.org/re/owl>*

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Our new benevolence in 2018, Aid for Immigrants in Detention NW (AIDNW) serves a unique population, the issues of which are in our news daily. Training volunteers as welcoming hosts at the aged RV sitting just outside the Detention Center NW happen almost monthly. Donated items of clothes and snacks are needed. Make a donation towards the campaign to raise 40K for an RV. Men's underwear/tee shirts/socks NEW are in high demand:

Janet and Leon Leonard discovered and wanted to share the new location and address where donations are now accepted and sorted. New address: 1915 S Sheridan Ave. Tacoma, WA 98405 (off of 19<sup>th</sup> in the Hilltop area near St. Joseph Hospital)

Call before you go: 253-572-9659 - Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Email: [dcruz@aidnw.org](mailto:dcruz@aidnw.org) Deborah Cruz

# March 2019

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 11:30am Mardi Gras Celebration	4	5 10am Congregational Care Mtg 11:30 Worship Mtg	6 12pm Brown Baggers 7pm Ash Wednesday	7 7:30—9:pm Choir	8	9
10	11 6:30pm Board Mtg	12	13 12pm Brown Baggers 6pm Lenten Soup/ Study	14 7:30—9:pm Choir Finance 6:30PM	15	16
17	18 7pm UP Commu- nity Garden Mtg	19 6:30pm Men's Group in the Youth Wing	20 12pm Brown Baggers 6pm Lenten Soup/ Study	21 7:30—9:pm Choir	22	23
24 31	25	26 6:30pm SPRC	27 12pm Brown Baggers 6pm Lenten Soup/ Study	28 7:30—9:pm Choir	29	30



## Church Contact

(253) 564-2754  
office@ucup.org  
pastor@ucup.org  
www.ucup.org

## Church Employees

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



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**Newsletter**

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**United Church In  
University Place**

3912 Grandview Dr W  
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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"

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



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

