

April 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



Lent, Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

The Seven Deadly Needs - Lent Sermon Series

By the time you read this we will have redeemed ourselves with four of the "Seven Deadly Needs" by Edward Bear, with the Need to be Know, the Need to be Right, the Need to Judge, and the Need to Get Even. For the rest of Lent, we encounter the Need to Look Good and the Need to Keep Score on April 7th and Palm Sunday on April 14th will feature the Need to Control.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday-April 14 - 10am Worship

We celebrate as Jesus enters Jerusalem. We begin Holy Week this day and wave palm fronds in celebration. We'll be giving to One Great Hour of Sharing this day also.



Maundy/Holy Thursday - April 18th - 6:30 pm

We remember the last night Jesus spent with his followers in the Upper Room before he was betrayed and arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. We will commemorate The Last Supper with Holy Communion, with music by our choir.

Good Friday Ecumenical Service - April 19th - 12-1 pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal church will be hosting a Good Friday Community Service with 12 co-sponsoring churches throughout the greater Tacoma area. The address is 7410 S 12th Street (at 12th & Jackson)



Easter Sunrise Service in the Curran Apple Orchard - April 21st 6:30am

Join us in the Curran Orchard for our annual Easter Sunrise service. We will gather around the sacred new fire, and lift our voices in praise that Jesus is Risen!

Children's Easter Egg Basket Hunt

All kids up through 11 years old will join the hunt for their Easter basket following the worship service.

The Easter Cross

Help make our Easter cross festive by bringing fresh cut flowers to poke in the holes of our Easter cross.



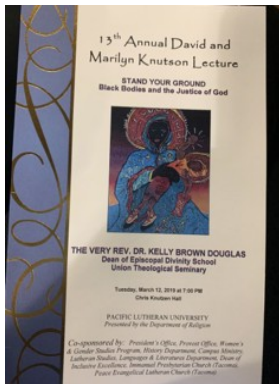
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is Palm Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing is a Christian effort to empower people by providing water, supplying food, and giving relief from disasters. There are currently projects in over 20 countries. One Great Hour of Sharing involves many denominations, including the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church.



From Pastor Cathy

On Tuesday, March 12th, I attended a lecture at PLU featuring Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Dean of Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary and Canon Theologian, National Episcopal Cathedral Dean. I found myself delighted to find an open seat in a fairly crowded hall next to Jamal Rahman, a marvelous teacher and popular speaker on Islam, Sufi spirituality, and Interfaith Amigos. I took a class on Sufi spirituality in 1998, my first year of seminary at Seattle University. Jamal now teaches a class at PLU as well, and stayed after his class for the lecture. When I took my seat, Jamal welcomed me with an infusion of joy and welcome hospitality, not because he remembered me from 20 years prior, but because that is how he lives and moves in the world, his spirituality of joy seeping out of his very being.



Dr. Brown Douglas began speaking about her newest book *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God* about how the understanding of white supremacy rests on the idea of black inferiority. She talked about how our current social-cultural climate makes the destruction and death of black bodies inevitable and even permissible; the intersectionality of injustice, and how homophobia, racism, religious fundamentalism and patriarchy are all connected. It was an excellent lecture about inherent racism in America. While there was nothing radically new for me, it was an impassioned reminder of how much work there is to be done in dismantling our racist past that has been embedded into our country from its foundation.

I didn't realize the connection between attending this lecture and the violent terrorist shooting and senseless loss of 50 lives at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand on March 15th, until this week. Once again, our lives were shattered by gun violence by a white supremacist targeted toward a congregation of Muslims peacefully at prayer.

That next day, Bob Rudolph attended the Islamic Center of Tacoma. Read his reflection below:

Pat and I have been attending services with our Muslim Brothers and Sisters and the Tacoma Islamic Center for several years on occasion. I brought our Muslim brothers and sisters to our Church for joint functions and we have attended their functions at the Islamic Center. The folks there are just like family to us. We couldn't be treated any better by anyone. Listening to the tragic news yesterday of all those innocent men, women and children being murdered in New Zealand broke our hearts. The sad thing is we hear about the gun violence in our country every day and sadly many are numb to it. But New Zealand is a very peaceful country, and this is a shock to us all. So, I had to call my friend Kadair to see what time services are. He asked if I would like to speak so I said that I would. At the end of the service a Rabbi and I spoke in solidarity and support of our Muslim Brothers and sisters and how our hearts were broken by this tragedy. They were so pleased that we were there to support them, I couldn't hardly get out the door with so many coming up to shake hands and thanking me for speaking and supporting them. Wouldn't it be a much better world if we could all realize that we are all people from the same God----my fundamentalist friends don't agree with me on this-----but my belief is there is one God and we just worship God from whatever culture we were born in. What a pleasure and honor to speak to my Muslim brothers and sisters today.



On Sunday, March 17th, the Islamic Center opened its doors to the public for a Vigil in Solidarity through Adversity. I'm thankful I walked to the Center because there was literally no place to park for blocks around, and the Islamic Center was beyond capacity with standing room only, with people spilling out of the building. We were welcomed with gracious hospitality, hugs and warm smiles. On such a sad and sobering night, there was a feeling of hope in our shared compassion and solidarity. Speakers included U.S. Representative Derek Killmer, WA state Representatives Laurie Jenkins and Christine Kilduff, Presbyterian pastor Rev. Sarah Wiles, Lutheran pas-

From Our President

Spring is here! A time of change, of renewal, of unpredictability. We have experienced record high temperatures for this time of year, while also knowing that we can't be REALLY sure that the last cold snap, or even the last snowfall, of the year has come. It is a time that reminds us that awakening, rebirth, growth, and life come with unpredictability, surprise, and challenge. That those things are sometimes wonderful, and sometimes frightening, frequently uncomfortable, and often all of the above. I wonder if this is why Lent falls in the Spring? The themes are certainly similar.

Since I last wrote this article (having inadvertently taken March off), Lynne, UCUP's long-serving Administrative Assistant, resigned. Wonderfully, Gretchen Engle was willing to capably step in to the role on an interim basis to help keep the business of the church afloat, and assist SPR and the Board as we reexamine and redefine the role prior to seeking someone to fill it permanently. Peace & Justice are asking us to consider joining with other UCC congregations in the Pacific Northwest and declaring UCUP to be an Immigrant and Refugee Welcoming Congregation, in order to reflect the many ministries we already undertake in support of these groups. There is more on this elsewhere in the newsletter. We will have a brief congregational meeting after the service on Palm Sunday to hold a vote of the Congregation regarding this topic. And finally, and possibly most challengingly, there is the decision of the UMC General Assembly to adopt the Traditional Plan, upholding language in the Book of Discipline that is so hurtful to our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ, and to those of us who love and support them. There will certainly be more to come from the UMC overall, and the Western Jurisdiction of which we are a member, but we continue to act in "ecclesiastical disobedience" as we feel called to by the example of Jesus.

We are certainly in a time of growth and change. And it is overwhelming, stressful, frightening, upsetting, uncomfortable, even painful. I have faith, however, that it will also bring about hope, peace, greater strength, broader wisdom, and a better world for our community and the broader world. For we know Lent begins with ashes and lamentations, and rises to tragedy on Good Friday, but also includes learning, teacher, introspection, soup, the joy and adulation of Palm Sunday, and eventually the transformation of Easter. So let us keep on the journey, and being grateful for the wonderful companions with whom we travel it.

Your fellow traveler, Chris Berry
President of the Congregation

From Pastor Cathy continued...

tor Rev. Jan Rude, University Place Chief of Police, and a number of our Muslim friends, including Bob & Pat's friend Kadair. We all wept at different points during the vigil, but especially so during the reading of the names of those shot and killed while worshipping their God. We were encouraged to get to know one another across differences, to stand up to hate speech, and to vote. I saw about 10 or so folks from UCUP in attendance (including Vic Bode & Leslie Ann Knight, Ardie Herbel, Lou & Margie Lehmann, Dick & Tonia Marine, Bob & Pat Rudolph), but I'm sure I missed somebody because it was so crowded.

I'm thankful for the outpouring of love for our Muslim brothers and sisters, and thankful I was able to renew a connection recently with my Muslim and Sufi Spirituality teacher, Jamal, whom I pray for especially after this attack. And I am so impressed with New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern who acted quickly, decisively and with such compassion by wearing a hijab in solidarity and going to comfort the mourners, promising to cover funeral costs of the Christchurch terror victims, assuring financial assistance for families of victims, and announcing the ban of all military-style semi-automatic weapons and assault rifles.

As we continue this season of Lent of being in solidarity with those who suffer, let us turn our prayerful stance into compassionate action of examining any implicit bias we have towards other people, standing against any kind of hate or oppression, and continue to work for sensible gun laws in our state and our country.



Joys & Concerns

Our sympathy to the family of **Helen Engle**, on the loss of their mother/grandmother, especially **Gretchen**, our interim office administrator...and to all of us at United Church on the loss of a member that for 3 ½ years brightened up the sanctuary on a Sunday morning, just by walking down the center aisle to one of the front pews on the right hand side. Her memorial service will be held on May 4th, at 3:30pm. Because United Church is not big enough to hold all those expected at her memorial service, it will be held at Mason UMC.

We're happy to report that after 2 weeks in the hospital, **Ardie Herbel's** granddaughter, **Beth**, is home, but still recovering...please keep her in your prayers...**Aubrey Elliott** recovering from pneumonia...and the family of **Reap Khou**, he passed away early in March. Reap Khou was a refugee from Cambodia, that United Church sponsored in the mid-80s.

Congratulations to **Roger and Laura Balcom**, they recently celebrated their 35th anniversary...to **Caroline Bryant and Colin Astrelia**, married March 22nd in California. The **Rev. Cathi Cline**, grandmother of the bride, officiated at the service....and we celebrate that **Pat Rudolph** was able to be in church on the 14th!

Please keep in prayer those unable to make it to church on Sundays or any of the events of fellowship and/or learning, such as the Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday Pancake Feast or the Lenten Soup Suppers: **Win Bjarke... Michael Marcoe...Yvonne Begeman...Donna Shoe...Michelle Wallace...Randi Byrd...Deb Howard...Joan Martin...Billie Jo Morgan...Blanche and Lahra Beesley...Emily Hartley...Mary Jones...Doris Larsen...**



Register for the 2019 Hunger Walk

The 2019 Hunger Walk will take place Saturday, May 4 at Fort Steilacoom Park. Participants can join in the run, which starts at 8 am, or the walk, which starts at 9 am. Join the United Church in U.P. team, and help us raise funds to support the local food banks. Sponsored by the Emergency Food Network and Associated Ministries, the Hunger Walk is an annual opportunity to support the mission of providing food to our neighbors in need, "so that no person goes hungry." The need is great. In the past year, there were 1.3 million guest visits to food programs in Pierce County, and 13.9 million pounds of food were distributed. The Emergency Food Network serves 71 food pantries, meal sites, and shelters in the county. The ratio of food insecure people in Pierce County is one in seven, and 29 percent of visitors to the food programs were children, aged 3 to 16.



Walkers and runners can register and join Team United Church in U.P. by signing up in the church narthex. "Virtual" walkers and supporters can make donations to the team by going online, or by completing a donation form, provided in the narthex. Checks should be made payable to United Church in U.P., with a reference to "Hunger Walk" in the subject line.

Hunger Walk Event Details:

Date: Saturday, May 4 Registration Deadline: April 30

Location: Fort Steilacoom Park Check-in opens: 7 am Run: 8 am

United Church in U.P. Team Picture: 8:30 am Walk: 9 am

It takes a village...to teach Sunday School

Did you know that we have a "Baker's Dozen" of folks who are using their gifts to teach Sunday School each week. As Staff Parish Relations continues to seek a gifted Sunday School Teacher to add to our staff, we are so grateful for these folks who have stepped up to teach this winter and spring: Robert Brown, Sharon Britcher, Christine Crossley, Rosemary Jones, Nancy Moffett, Nora de Sandoval, Ben Small, Dennis Small, Cheryl Stone, Judy Thierry, and Angie Wolle. And we are so fortunate to have Addy Harding on staff as she provides consistency with the kids every week. How lucky we are to have so many people involved in the Faith and Spiritual Formation of our young people.

Read below for a reflection from "Teacher Judy":
During the Children's Time Sunday March 17, we learned about different points of view and that it doesn't make you "right" or "wrong." Take a bow Janet and Jim. The children then went to the youth room in an up-and-down-and-around about way as Abraham did carrying his tent, blankets, accompanied by his wife. We did not have animals with us however. His journey was about trusting in God's plan that indeed he and his wife Sarah would have a child even if they were quite old. Here the children are creating a tent with the flaps down.



In Abraham's time, people would welcome guests by opening all four sides or flaps of the tent to signal hospitality. Children settled into the tent in order to see maps of Abraham and Sarah's journey from Ur to Hebron over 4000 years ago. We also studied some very well known stars in the heavens. Ask Jimmy which one in particular! Emma thought that the Milky Way was like an outer space rainbow. You might ask her to share more about that poetic thought. Sophia knew how to make a tent, having constructed them out of blankets in her living room. Jeremiah steadies the top of the "tent" with yoga bolsters. Wes, you can tell, is finding his "front row" spot in the tent.

Genesis 12: 2-3 "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed".

Thank you to Addy as always for her attentive care during Sunday School.

Judy Thierry on behalf of the children and Faith and Spiritual Growth

April 2019



April Birthdays

12 Danielle Dimmerman
13 Emma Berry (6)
14 Mollie Chaffee & Terry Gibson
17 Yvonne Begeman & Don Thompson
21 Christine Crossley
23 Ardie Herbel
30 Vicki Diamond

A Thank You from the Engle Family

In the large arc of my mom's life, and all the many organizations she belonged to and/or helped to start, the Methodist church holds the record as the community she has been a member of the longest. She was baptized and raised a Methodist, and when she settled in Tacoma in the late 1940's, she became a member of Epworth United Methodist Church. She remained a member even after she moved to the "country", University Place, in 1955. She had a few brief interludes into Unitarianism, but ended up back at Epworth until they closed almost four years ago.

I remember when she finally found United Church. She was thrilled, she immediately felt loved and at home here. She already knew a few people, and enjoyed getting to know the rest. She was always eager to tell me who she had seen and what Cathy had preached about. She loved the choir and Jeff's music. She was proud that there were so many clergy at the church, and super proud that her daughter worked for the bishop! So I thank the United Methodist and United Church of Christ for holding my mom in their care.

I speak for all my brothers and sisters and my entire extended family when I say thank you for the care you gave us these past couple of weeks.

I want to thank "Team Helen", a name I use for that group of people who were always there to assist her, to get my mom back and forth to church, shopping, meetings and special church events. It meant she could be involved even though she couldn't drive, and it kept her in touch with a community of like-minded people.

Copious amounts of food were bestowed upon us, a wonderful ham dinner and a Mexican feast, plus snacks and fruit, salads and Girl Scout cookies. We ate leftovers for days. At one point there were about 25 family members all munching on UCUP food. We borrowed one of your coffee makers – no instant coffee for us (sorry mom). What a blessing. No one had to think about who would make the next meal, when all our attention was focused on mom and on each other, all of us helping mom do what she most wanted – to die peacefully at home and to be carried out feet first.

We are all happy for her long life and amazing legacy. We are grateful to have shared her with everyone here and with all the people in all the other arenas of her life. I especially want to give a shout out to Marilyn and Don Thompson and Judy Thierry for the first load of food they dropped off on Friday, and Pamela Maddess for the enchiladas and sangria. Nancy Moffett has been a most faithful friend to my mom, and I know Nancy had a part in planning the candle light vigil the neighbors held for us on Saturday night. It was the most moving experience. And all through the days, Cathy was present, sometimes in the background, but checking in every day.

You have been the perfect example of what church is at its very best. My mom was lucky to have such a community as this. Thank you.

Gretchen Engle



**Celebration of Life for Helen Engle
Saturday, May 4th at 3:30pm at Mason UMC
2710 North Madison Street, Tacoma**

Save the Date—Tacoma Community House Annual Luncheon, April 12th

Plan to join Tacoma Community House on April 12th for their 109th annual luncheon with Keynote speaker Dr. Lin Zhou, president of Bates Technical College. The event will be held at the Greater Tacoma Convention center beginning at 11:30am with registration, lunch and program begin at noon.

4th Sunday Forum

TACOMA'S EVOLVING RECYCLING PROGRAM

The UCUP Greening Activity Group hosted Preston Peck from Tacoma Recycling on March 24. Considering there were two UCUP meetings going on at the same time, the attendance--and interest from attendees--were high. Preston put up several slides to graphically explain the situation.

Overseas acceptance of recycled trash has become more difficult. Mr. Peck advised us that this is primarily because China's economy has strengthened, and the sort of employment that recycling jobs had provided there are no longer needed. China had been accepting about 10% of Tacoma's output, but now accepts about 0.1%. It costs Tacoma about \$100 per ton to export recyclables now. Tacoma has had some luck finding new takers, but costs are still too high to break even.

About 7400 households (including some from UCUP) responded to a Tacoma Recycling survey, and Mr Peck was able to provide some high-level initial generalizations. The survey offered five options on how people could pay more to get a certain level of services. The highest increase to a household's trash fees for any of these levels was less than \$5 per month. The worst-case scenario involves simply burying all the materials currently being recycled into landfill.

Results of the survey will be evaluated, with a recommendation to the City Council for a plan forward. The next public meeting on the matter will be in Tacoma's Municipal Building North on March 27. You are welcome to attend.

Forum attendees asked numerous questions, ranging from enforcing rules on how to drop off recycling items into the proper bins to confirming that Tacoma still accepts Styrofoam for recycling. Overall, every attendee appeared to be engaged, and everyone seemed to appreciate what Preston had to offer us.

For more information go to Tacoma Recycling's website at:

<https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=166678>

Submitted by Roger Martin



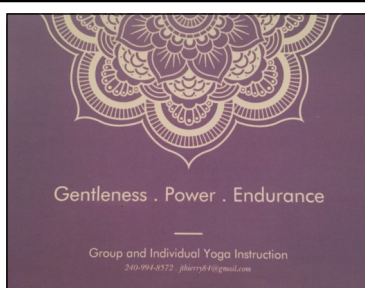
JAMAA LETU - Our First Goal is met!

We met our first goal by raising \$493. This amount will cover one third of a child's expenses for a year. The Peace and Justice Committee suggests that UCUP commit to raising the funds to complete a full year's support. The jars continue to be brought to the narthex and contributions now total \$736.89! We are nearly halfway to the year's goal of \$1500 as of March 15th. The deadline for this year is the PNW UMC Conference in June. Thank you for your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters.

Kay Shaben

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.



Peace and Justice

Welcoming Immigrants and Refugees

At the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ in 2017, the resolution A Call to Become Immigrant and Refugee Welcoming as a Conference and in Congregations was passed. This resolution asks each congregation to consider becoming an Immigrant and Refugee Welcoming congregation. You can read the entire resolution here: [Resolution](#)

The Peace & Justice Committee has been discussing this resolution since it passed and we have realized that, as a congregation, UCUP is already doing, or has done, many of the things recommended to become an immigrant and refugee welcoming congregation. Therefore, the following was submitted by the committee to the church board:

Rationale for becoming an Immigrant and Refugee Welcoming Congregation Based on the Resolution of the PNC UCC

"This resolution is based on the belief that every immigrant and refugee has inherent dignity and human rights. Every immigrant and refugee should be able to live in safety, live without fear, and have access to basic necessities and opportunities."

The Peace and Justice Committee requests that the Church Board of United Church in University Place vote in favor of declaring UCUP as an Immigrant and Refugee Welcoming Congregation and recommend this declaration to the congregation at the next Congregational Meeting.

As a committee and as individuals, UCUP is already fulfilling the call to be welcoming to all, including immigrants and refugees. Through our benevolences to Tacoma Community House and Aid to Immigrants in Detention Northwest, AIDNW, the collection of backpacks and toiletry items, and individual volunteers, UCUP is demonstrating that we consider immigrants and refugees to be a vital part of our ministry. And we look forward to future opportunities to be of service to these individuals as they present themselves and as we have the resources to respond.

It should also be noted that UCUP also sponsored a refugee family a number of years ago.

The church board voted to accept the recommendation of the Peace and Justice Committee to declare the United Church in University Place an Immigrant and Refugee Welcoming Congregation and to refer this for action to the congregation for a final vote. This vote will take place at a specially called congregational meeting immediately following worship on April 14, 2019. This meeting will be in the sanctuary just prior to our time of fellowship. Please review the resolution and plan to attend the meeting. The P & J Committee hopes to report a positive vote to this year's PNC UCC Annual Conference on April 27th.

Rev. Cathi Cline
for the Peace & Justice Committee



My Sister's Pantry Item of the Month: Toilet Paper

This month My Sister's Pantry is collecting toilet paper. Bring your rolls in on any Sunday in April!

Saturday, April 27, UPUC volunteers will have the opportunity to help at My Sisters Pantry. We will work from 10 to 12:30 packing food boxes, giving out fresh fruits and veggies, cooking lunch or assisting in the clothing closet. The Pantry is located in the lower level of the First United Methodist Church, 621 N. Tacoma Ave. Please sign up in the Narthex.



April 2019

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10am Congregational Care Mtg	3 12pm Brown Baggers 6pm Lenten Soup/ Study	4 7:30—9:pm Choir	5	6
7	8 6:30pm Board Mtg	9	10 12pm Brown Baggers 6pm Lenten Soup/ Study	11 7:30—9:pm Choir	12	13
14 Palm Sunday 11:30am All church mtg	15 UP Community Garden Mtg 7pm	16 6:30pm Men's Group in the Youth Wing	17 12pm Brown Baggers	18 6:30pm Maundy Thursday 7:30—9:pm Choir	19 Noon- Good Friday Service at St. Andrews	20
21 Easter	22 7pm UP Commu- nity Garden Mtg	23 6:30pm SPRC	24 12pm Brown Baggers 6pm Lenten Soup/ Study	25 7:30—9:pm Choir	26	27 PNC-UCC Annual Mtg
28	29	30				

Church Contact

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



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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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**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"

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



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

