

June 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



Pentecost commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus. Christians borrowed it from Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to the Jewish holiday, the Festival of Weeks. Traditionally, people wear the color red, or fire colors to worship that day symbolizing the "tongues of fire" descending on the people.

(Photos are from our 2018 Pentecost Celebration)



Pentecost Celebration - June 9th with guest preacher (former Interim Pastor) Rev. Jan Van Pelt.

Come celebrate Pentecost on June 9th by dressing in Fire Colors. Pentecost

100th Birthday Celebration for Alta Mae Westgaard



June 9th from 1-4 pm at home of Joel Westgaard:

5013 82nd Ave W West,
University Place

*No gifts please.

Contact Dale Westgaard with questions at (816) 582-6783

Celebration of Life for Allen Munn

- Open House at the Munn's
- June 1st from 1-4 pm
- 4050 Soundview Dr. W., University Place



TAHOMA HOPE
FARM & GARDENS

Growing People, Growing Plants

DATE: Sunday, June 2

TIME: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

PLACE: United Church in UP

hanging baskets | veggie starts | perennials | crafts

From Bishop Elaine Stanovsky

Reflection from Greater NW UMC Bishop Elaine Stanovsky: Moving FORWARD to What's NEXT

I just returned from two gatherings in May that I believe will shape the future of Methodism for years to come. They could mark a turn toward LGBTQ+ persons being fully recognized, included and honored in Methodism in the future, whatever form it takes. More than 900 people participated in one or both events, including leaders from the Greater Northwest. The actions of General Conference 2019 stirred up deep distress. Many are asking: how do we live in a church that has adopted values and rules that we believe are not Christian? Do we stay and try to change the Church? Or is Jesus, who makes all things new, leading us to create a new expression of Methodism that is more faithful to the gospel? It feels like we are in a great season of sorting out how much diversity can remain united, and what are the limits beyond which some may have to leave.



The first gathering, Our Way FORWARD brought together justice-seeking communities to hear one another, recognize their shared oppression, and speak their call and commitment to a new Methodist movement that will act for justice inside the Church and in the world. People of color and LGBTQ+ United Methodists organized and led the event, with a deep commitment to creating a Church in "radical solidarity" with oppressed people.

Around 350 persons attended this event, with 19 present from the Greater Northwest Area. I was the only bishop present. Here's what I experienced. This gathering was church in the way it intentionally included many voices in the planning and leadership; in the way the host congregation prepared, welcomed, fed, honored and protected participants; in the depth, passion and beauty of worship; in the prophetic proclamation of the liberating love of Jesus Christ, in the midst of misrepresentation, rejection and agony. It was church through shared sorrow and grief, the bold claim of baptism, the celebration of the goodness and fragility of God's creation and gathering at the table of grace. Many wore T-shirts bearing the baptismal promise to: resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. Around tables I also heard people saying:

- I want to be in the Church my parents attend in their conservative town. I don't agree with them, but I want to be in the same Church.
- Even if I left the UMC, I would not be free of it. It is the community of my people. It made me who I am.
- I want gay babies born today to have a church that embraces and nurtures them. If I leave, they are still at risk.
- Black Methodists stayed in the Church through segregation, even when they were treated as second-class citizens. There can be strength in resistance.



As I left the gathering, I was deeply grateful for deep honesty, urgency, and generosity. And I felt confident that leaders across our Church are ready and able to lead the Church into the future.

The second gathering, UMC NEXT gathered "centrists," who were outraged at the actions of General Conference, together with progressives longing for real change. This coalition denounced the Traditional Plan and vowed to work toward a Church that strives for justice and full inclusion.



Nearly 30 people came from the Greater Northwest. Some attended both events to ensure that UMC NEXT would benefit from the conversations and perspectives from OUR WAY FORWARD. Together, participants helped craft a vision for a new, hopeful, inclusive, just Methodist movement based on four core commitments:

- To be passionate followers of Jesus Christ, committed to a Wesleyan vision of Christianity that is anchored in scripture and informed by tradition, reason and experience as we live a life of personal piety and social holiness.
- To resist evil, injustice and oppression in all forms and toward all people, and to build a church which affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations and abilities.
- To reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and resist its implementation.
- To work to eliminate discriminatory language and the restrictions and penalties in the Book of Discipline regarding LGBTQ individuals. We affirm the sacred worth of LGBTQ persons, celebrate their gifts, and commit to being in ministry together.

These commitments are consistent with statements and actions taken by our Greater Northwest annual conferences for many years. I embrace these commitments and find them helpful as I lead United Methodists in the Northwest. I believe that inclusive community is the Jesus way and that it is the future of our Church. There are no concrete plans at this time but these gatherings, and the coalitions that are being built, will help us in shaping what comes next. Policies to guide processes of disaffiliation are being developed for churches that feel they must leave the denomination. In the next few weeks, the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Annual Conference sessions will give us a chance to learn more, and to think and pray together about our future in the Northwest.

In this CrossOver year, we are finding our way, and making the road by walking. I hope you are talking with people in your home church, and outside the church, about the critical challenge we face. I hope you are talking to people whose life experience is different from yours. Where two or three are gathered, God is present.

"I pray that... Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3: 15-19

The Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Session will meet at the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup June 7-9th. We will continue to explore our quadrennial theme, "Do this and you will live!" We will commission and ordain new ministry leaders, vote for our one clergy and one lay delegate (and reserves) to represent the PNW General Conference in Minneapolis next spring 2020. Nancy Tam Davis, as the PNW Conference Lay Leader, will have significant responsibility and leadership. Others attending Conference include Pastor Cathy, Rosemary Jones, Pat Mail, Vic Bode, Rev. Leslie Ann Knight, Rev. Jim Davis, and Rev. Angie Wolle.



We celebrate with Rev. K. James Davis as he approaches his 50th anniversary of ordination. He will be honored at Annual Conference on June 8th for his service and this milestone. Rev. Jim Davis came to the Pacific Northwest to serve as Chaplain of University of Puget Sound 40 years ago, and has been a vital part of UCUP for the past 15+ years. Congratulations Jim!

Joys & Concerns



Since our last Newsletter went to press we've learned of the death of Dorothy Burkhart, a long time member of United Church, on April 30th. A memorial was held for her at the Nature Center at Snake Lake on May 25th. Our condolences to her daughter Kit, and sons Perry, Dick, and James. Please hold them in your prayers, along with the families of Allen Munn and Helen Engle.

The Care & Concerns Committee would like to welcome our new office administrator, Kelly Krisman, and say 'see you' (hopefully) and thank you to Gretchen Engle, for serving as our interim office administrator.

Congratulations to Cecelia Shilling, she graduated from PLU (like her parents did) on May 25th. She starts work on a Master's Degree in Art Education this summer.



Cecelia M. Schilling

*3rd Place, 2019 Senior Exhibition,
"Palimpsest: Evidence of the
Artist"; Book Club of WA, 2019
Robert D. Monroe Award in
Book Arts; School of Arts &
Communication Dean's Award for
Excellence*

Welcome home Dennis and Diane Small. To celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary they took a trip to China. Yes, they walked on 'the wall'.

On Sunday, May 19th, parents from Narrows Co-op (the pre-school that meets in our church school area from October 'til May) provided and served the goodies for our Fellowship Time. This was their way of saying 'thank you' for being allowed to meet in our building.

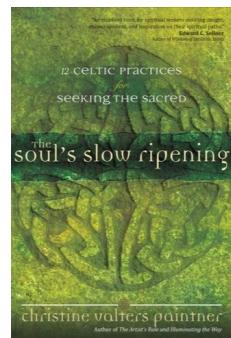
Please remember to include our members and friends that are not able to be with us on Sundays in your prayers...and maybe send a note: Yvonne Begeman...Donna Shoe...Michelle Wallace...Billie Jo Morgan...Joan Martin...Blanche & Lahra Beesley...Emily Hartley...Mary Jones...Doris Larsen...Win Bjarke and Michael Marcoe.

Summer Sermon and Worship Series: Starting June 16th The Soul's Slow Ripening: 12 Celtic Practices for Seeking the Sacred

What does God desire for your life? This is a question that most people of faith want to explore and understand. Join us this summer as we move through this book written by Christine Valters Paintner. Paintner distills one of the most ancient Spiritual paths, The Celtic way, into 12 practices, from her study of monasticism and immersion into Celtic spirituality while living in Ireland. She offers discernment that focuses on the environment rather than the intellectual focus present in other forms of discernment, allowing for the "soul's slow ripening" - coming into the fullness of our own sweetness before we pluck the fruit.

Each week we will meet a Celtic Christian Saint - some well-known like Patrick or Brigid, others less so, such as Ita or Ciaran or Gobnait — and then learn a spiritual practice for discernment that the saint's life illustrates. Some of these practices include: the practice of thresholds; the practice of dreaming; the practice of perigrinatio (wandering for the love of God); the practice of blessing each moment; the practice of soul friendship; the practice of walking the rounds; the practice of solitude and silence; the practice of seasonal cycles; the wisdom of the landscape.

Let us embark on a journey this summer of walking an ancient path to unleashing the creativity and wholeness and intuition as we awaken to *The Soul's Slow Ripening within*.



From Our President

June! Spring is in full swing, the world is in bloom, the days are getting longer, and spirits are rising! As always, a time of new beginnings and new adventures. We have been in the midst of a few! In worship on May 12th, we thanked Gretchen Engle for her service as Interim Office Administrator, and welcomed and blessed Kelly Krisman as she enters the role on a permanent basis. My thanks, in advance, to Kelly for all of the help and for her grace as I edge right up to (and occasionally over) deadlines, especially for newsletter articles!

As I write this, we are coming up to Memorial Day weekend, which in the Laurie-Berry Household heralds Neva spending Saturday afternoon at PLU Spring Commencement, congratulating the year's graduates as they face their own new beginnings. This year, she will not be alone, as our very own Cecelia Schilling will be there wearing her own cap and gown as she graduates college.

And the Board is asking us to prepare for a few new adventures as well. On July 20, UCUP will be hosting a Parking Lot sale to help meet our budget shortfall. More information elsewhere, but please save the date, and start saving the treasures that you are ready to part with!

Additionally, we voted in the May Board meeting to approve a new position for the church. We have created the position of UMC Lay Leader, at the behest of Nancy Tam Davis in her role as UMC Conference Lay Leader. At UCUP, the Lay Leader will serve as a liaison with the lay leaders from other UMC congregations in the region, as they meet to discuss and possibly coordinate responses to the actions from the UMC General Assembly this winter, as well as other potential issues. This position will be separate from the UMC Delegate, who will represent UCUP at the UMC Annual Conference. Vic Bode has offered to serve as our Lay Leader, and was appointed to this position by the Board. Feel free to ask him, Nancy, or I if you have further questions.

In this time of new beginnings, of new growth, of new hope and brighter days, may we find excitement and passion for our new adventures, courage and patience with the anxiety that new things bring, and compassion and healing for those of us for whom new beginnings also mean loss and unwanted endings. As always, let us be a support to each other, and to the neighbors we are called to serve.

In Hope and Peace,
Chris Berry
President of the Congregation

Kelly's UCUP Office Hours

Summer hours (starting June 17th):

Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am-1pm

School year hours: (starting Sept 3rd):

Tues, Wed, Fri: 9am-1pm



am ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES



HOUSING IS THE FOUNDATION FOR WHOLENESS

Join us every quarter to learn about, discuss and take action on the crisis of homelessness

HEAR IMPORTANT UPDATES, LEARN ABOUT RESOURCES AND WORK TOGETHER TO HELP END HOMELESSNESS!

This is a CALL TO ACTION for attendees representing every faith community, the faith leader and/or their appointed representative, as well as anyone who is interested in helping to end homelessness.

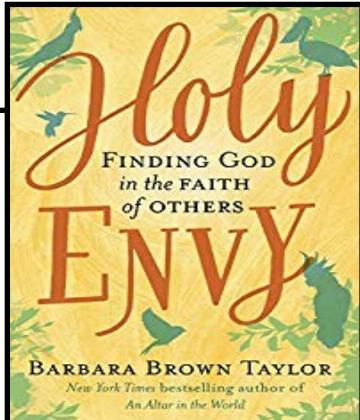
AM convenes these meetings in partnership with other Pierce County homeless and housing service providers; our goal is to create an energizing space for people of faith and good will to gather regularly to take action to help end homelessness in our community. Plan to attend!

Thursday, June 20, 2019
5:00-7:00 pm

Oasis of Hope Center
1937 S. G Street
Tacoma, WA 98405

Please pre-register (free!) at www.associatedministries.org/events/cqm0620
(This helps us prepare for seating and snacks!)

Future 2019 meetings at Oasis: 9/19, 12/12.
For more information contact Sandy Windley at Associated Ministries: 253-426-1506 or sandyw@associatedministries.org



Book Study: Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor

Barbara Brown Taylor recently came to speak at UPS in Tacoma to feature her newest book: Holy Envy. She shares her journey as an Episcopalian minister who found herself in a small college teaching "Religions of the World". She writes, "As soon as I recovered from the shock of meeting God in so many new hats, I fell for every religion I taught." When she taught Judaism, she wanted to be a rabbi. When she taught Buddhism, she wanted to be a monk. It was only when she taught Christianity that the fire sputtered, because her religion looked so different once she saw it lined up with the others. She always promised her students that studying other faiths would not make them lose their own. Then she lost hers, or at least the one she started out with. She explores what is opened and what is revealed when we accept the invitation to investigate all the wonder before us.

If you are interested in reading and exploring this book this summer, let Pastor Cathy know by June 10th so we can set a day and time to meet.

Parking Lot

SALE

**SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, July 20th**

On that date, from 9am until 1pm there will be a 'parking lot sale' in the Church's parking lot. Those that choose to take part will bring, mark and sell their own items AND the money received from the sale of those items will be donated to the church for capital improvements. You could work as an individual or 'buddy up' with the person that sits next to you in the pew on Sunday mornings...or maybe the Church's committees could each have a table?

So, start gathering items you can part with and stay tuned for more information.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ruth Cannon
- 2 Ben Small
- 8 Wes Berry
- 9 Mary Jones
- 18 Shirley Paulson
- 22 Fran Cash
- Don Morgan
- Kay Shaben
- 24 Laura Giddings
- 30 Cindi Bodie
- Harry Garrison



My Sister's Pantry Item of the Month: Dry Cereal

This month My Sister's Pantry is collecting cereal. Bring your boxes in on any Sunday in June!



June 2019

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 12 pm Allen Munn Celebration of Life
2 Worship 10am L'Arche Sale 9:30-12:30	3	4 10am Congregational Care Mtg	5 12pm Brown Baggers 6:00 Finance	6 7:30—9:pm Choir	7 Annual Conference (7th-9th)	8 ➡➡➡➡➡
9 ➡➡ Pentecost Sunday Worship 10am	10 6:30pm Board Mtg	11	12 12pm Brown Baggers	13 7:30—9:pm Choir	14	15
16 Father's Day Worship 10am	17	18 6:30pm Men's Group	19 12pm Brown Baggers	20	21	22
23 Worship 10am Worship 10am 30	24	25 6:30pm SPRC	26 12pm Brown Baggers	27	28	29

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
 Office Admin: Kelly Krisman



PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
UNITED CHURCH IN UNIVERSITY PLACE
3912 GRANDVIEW DRIVE WEST
UNIVERSITY PLACE, WA. 98466

POSTMASTER:
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Periodicals
Postage Paid at
Tacoma WA 98413

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welcome here.

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Vol. 37 No6
June 1, 2019

**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**