

September 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



September 1st

Blessing of the Backpacks

Blessing of the backpacks and our students
and teachers headed back to school.

Welcome Back Choir!

Our awesome UCUP choir will resume its weekly rehearsals on Thursday, September 5, from 7:30-9 p.m. in the sanctuary.



I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer off! The choir will join regular Sunday worship on September 15. We are blessed to have a core of returning members, however, newcomers are always welcome. Prior choral experience, and music reading ability is always a plus, but not a requirement. All God's creatures got a place in the choir!

Any questions, please email our Music Director, Jeff Andersen at music@ucup.org

MISSION TALK ON COLUMBIA AND POT LUCK LUNCH SEPTEMBER 22, 2019



On Sunday, September 22nd, UCUP will host Michael Joseph, a co-worker with Global Ministries (a partnership of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church Disciples of Christ), who has worked in Columbia for the last 12 years. We will provide a potluck lunch following the 10 am service. Please bring a dish to share: a casserole, side, salad, bread, or dessert. Following lunch, Michael will speak to us about his work and experiences in Columbia.

In an article about Michael and his work, Ed Evans wrote, "Michael has been working as the coordinator of the CaféPaz Peace Studies Center in Bogota, Colombia in partnership with Justapaz, an important peacemaking organization. His work has focused on conflict transformation, restorative justice and human rights in the midst of Colombia's armed conflict.

Michael brings an extraordinary depth of knowledge and experience with peacemaking efforts in Colombia. He will be providing updated information about the progress, or lack thereof, of implementation of the Colombian Peace Accords adopted by a vote of the people in 2016.

Quoting Cornel West, Michael writes in his Global Ministries profile, 'To be a Christian is to live dangerously, honestly, freely – to step in the name of love as if you may land on nothing, yet to keep stepping because the something that sustains you no empire can give you and no empire can take away.'"

Submitted by Cathi Cline

From Pastor Cathy

What is Your Give-away? (At the end of this article you will be invited to respond to this question)

When I went away to seminary 20 years ago, a clergy friend gave me a book by Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen called "Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories that Heal". Later I read her book, "My Grandfather's Blessings" about her Orthodox Jewish Rabbi grandfather. Dr. Remen has been widely known for her pioneering work with cancer patients and the doctors who treat them. She writes: "*We are ALL healers. We heal with our wholeness, our humanity, even our wounds. Our wounds do not diminish us, they make us trustworthy. Our vulnerability connects us to the vulnerability in others in compassionate ways. Everyone has within themselves a hidden wholeness, a potential for growth.*"

Her writing and her stories have had a deep impact on my spiritual life. Four years ago Dr. Remen was offering a retreat for people beyond the medical community. The theme of the retreat was: "Walking the Path with Heart: Finding Your Authentic Life." Here were a few of the teasers to help people discern whether to attend the retreat:

Does your purpose guide your life? Do you sometimes wonder if your life has any meaning?
Do you feel that you are here for some reason you cannot explain?
Do you know how to come home to yourself and live closer to your reason for being?

I signed up for the retreat. Rachel started with a quote from Dolly Parton: "*It's not about finding your purpose. It's about figuring out who you are and doing it on purpose.*" There is a famous quote out there that has been attributed to Howard Thurman, a visionary activist, that holds some tension in it. It goes like this: "*Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.*" This is similar to the words of Jesus in John 10:10: "*I have come to give you life and give it abundantly.*" I think this quote attributed to Thurman is a profound quote that was left unfinished. Is it possible to learn to come alive AND live abundantly WHILE serving the needs of the world and healing and helping other people come alive and live an abundant life?

And this is where the retreat with Dr. Remen got interesting, and offered an answer to that question. Rachel talked a lot about what she calls our "give-away" in life. That part of us that naturally rises to the surface and not only brings us joy, but also brings healing into other people's lives. She invited us to get in touch and uncover what our give-away might be. She told a story of her college boyfriend who finally finished his dissertation at the end of 8 years in the 1950's. Rachel went with him to stand in a long line waiting for the mimeograph worker to finally take his work and start mimeographing the many pages in order to bind it together. I can still remember watching our church secretary run the mimeograph machine to run the Sunday bulletin. She would have to crank the handle over and over. A seemingly mundane and thankless task. When Rachel and her boyfriend finally approached the entrance, the mimeograph lady gently reached out to take the pages and pages of his dissertation - she held it to her heart, saying, "*You've done it!!! I am so proud of you. I will make it so beautiful and bind it in such a way that your children will be proud.*"

THIS is like the story of the bricklayer - the one who wasn't JUST doing the tedious, back-breaking labor of building walls with bricks - but the one who had the vision of building a cathedral. It is all about our internal attitude regarding our work.

Five years ago this weekend, I celebrated my last worship service with Sand Point in Seattle, before coming to UCUP to be your pastor. There was a woman in her 90's who loved to grow African violets. Every surface in her home was covered them. Her name is Tiero Jenkins, lovingly known by her World War II fighter pilot husband as the Tallahassee Lassie. If you go up to Paine Field in Mukilteo and visit Paul Allen's Flying Heritage Collection, you can see a replica of the P-47 Thunderbolt fighter plane that Colonel Jenkins flew in 129 missions during WWII. It has a picture of young Tiero in a 1940's bikini, with "Tallahassee Lassie" emblazoned on the plane. Tiero grew the violets for the pastor to take to people who were sick or grieving or recovering from surgery. This was Tiero's give-away. And it was three-fold. It brought her joy growing them. It brought me joy

visiting Tiero and Colonel Jenkins in their home for the next supply. And people whom I visited loved receiving the plants feeling a deeper connection of love and care and beauty.

Rachel said, "It is not our purpose that gives our life meaning; it is our give-away." The mimeograph lady and Tiero - they both found their give-away. What are the hidden threads that run through your life that point to your give-away? During worship on 9/1 of Labor Day weekend we will hear from people in the congregation talking about their give-away. Do you have a story to share?

During the Children's Time last Sunday, I showed the kids three separate circles. We talked about each one - what you love doing, what you are good at doing, and what the world and God need you to do. I then placed the circles into a Venn diagram and talked about how rare it is to have all three come together like that. Six-year old Emma shouted out, "That looks like a heart." Later, she demonstrated that she really understood the concept: "My mom LOVES to crochet, AND she's pretty good at it, and people always want her to make something for them, so it's what the world needs." And then she blew us all away when she said, "I love to be kind, and God wants me to be kind, and I'm pretty good at it." While we held hands to pray the Lord's Prayer, Emma's foot was planted right in the center of the heart of the Venn diagram. What is your give-away?



We will celebrate Holy Communion on September 1st. What is a symbol of your offering, your give-away, your life's work and labor and passion in the world. Bring a small-ish object to worship to bring forward during Communion that symbolizes your purpose in life so that they can be blessed and consecrated.

From our President

And just like that, Summer is over. I'm always amazed at this point in the year that the summer can have been this short, and yet it has been so long since school got out! And the summer held such wonders, from our annual Blessing of the Animals service, to new faces in the pews, to my family's inaugural trip to Disneyland (it's not actually a UCUP event, but it was a big deal!). And, as we enter this new season of Fall, of new beginnings and new academic adventures, we will (as I write this in the end of August) be holding our Blessing of the Backpacks next weekend to celebrate and encourage our students and teachers as they return to their academic labors.

May we all hold on to the hope, excitement, and anticipation that my kids now show in the face of a the unknown future. And may we be there to encourage and support those of us who, reasonably or not, encounter such new adventures with anxiety, worry or fear. Let us take the risk of living in hope, of taking the jump of belief that good could occur from the unknown, and that even in the times that feel the worst, blessings, justice, and joy can arise.

I'm working to maintain that spirit as we move into this coming Fall, and the end of this term. The Nominations Committee has begun its work, which will extend into the Autumn, of gathering the leadership team for 2020. We have already begun asking for your time and talent. If you are being called to a certain area of work, service or planning in the church, please do not hesitate to let me or Pastor Cathy know! The Stewardship Committee is also coming together to plan our upcoming Stewardship Drive, and to celebrate UCUP's 50th Anniversary this January. There is so much coming up! I so look forward to sharing this coming adventure with you all!

Joining you in the Choice of Hope,



Pride Festival in Tacoma

Emma, Wes & Neva Berry joined Pastor Cathy at Tacoma 1st UMC's booth to offer hospitality in giving away cookies and water to people passing by.



Days for Girls

Supplies and material needs continue as DFG prepares kits for countries including Kenya, Afghanistan and India.

See the box in the narthex. Schedule of ironing and sewing opportunities is available.



Spontaneous pick-up choir on August 4th

Jeremiah turning 10 years old





Our August Flea Market turned out to be a fairly low-stress fundraiser that raised over \$1500 to help fill the gap in our budget. The bigger success was in building a sense of community and fun among our church family AND the outreach to our neighborhood. Many conversations took place in the parking lot with neighbors who always drive by our church and love our reader board, but have not gotten beyond our doors - yet. One of the best moments of the day was Janet making her daughter Adrienne buy back her own CD's. Many thanks to Christine Crossley for the brilliant idea; to Cathi Cline, Joyce Demarest, Tom Milligan and Don & Marilyn Thompson for publicity and organizing the event; and to the whole Berry family, Sharon Britcher, Robert Brown, Ruth Cannon, Bill & Vicki Diamond, Dawn Foreman, Ardie Herbel, Pat Mail, Allison Milligan, Nancy Moffett, Meredith Sage, Kay Shaben, Judy Thierry, Janet Wicks, Pastor Cathy & Angie Wolle for coming and selling their rummage.

Flea Market FUN





Joys & Concerns

FIVE YEARS!!! How time flies when you're having fun! Five years, that's how long Pastor Cathy has been at United Church – preaching, teaching, visiting, comforting, rejoicing with us, visiting on the bridge after church on Sundays (sometimes all the way to your car) and let's not forget doing dishes. Thank you Cathy for coming, we're glad you're here.

Please hold the following in your prayers: Mary Jones, who moved into an adult home on August 26, her new address is: 11502 Gravelly Lake Dr., WA 98499. Pray that Mary and her 'kids' find it easy to adjust to this move...our condolences to Diane Small and family on the recent death of her brother Donald...Bob and Pat Rudolph's son John and daughter Michelle, both with health problems...the Rev. Dr. Joanne Brown, who had back surgery on August 14th, following a car accident. She is home recovering now.

THE GOOD NEWS: Christine Long received a promotion. THE BAD NEWS: The new job is in Seattle and they will be moving to Renton. Congratulations Christine, thank you for all you've done since coming to United Church, including chairing the Peace and Justice Committee. We'll miss you.

Wedding bells have been ringing a lot lately – Becca Brazell and David Patterson were married on August 10th – Cierra Gillard and Jordan Campbell were married on Vashon Island on August 17th and Meredith Maddess-Franzen and Joshua Corcoran were married in Enumclaw on August 17th. Congratulations and Best Wishes to all 3 couples.



Thursday, September 19th, 2019, is our **7th annual FLAVOR** dining fundraiser. As part of Welcoming Week, local restaurants partner with Tacoma Community House to stand up for immigrants and refugees by donating 25% or more of their total sales for the day to support TCH's mission of empowering immigrants, refugees, and all other community members through its four core programs of: ***Education, Employment, Immigration, and Advocacy.***

Kelly's UCUP Office Hours

School year hours starting this week:

Tues, Wed, Fri: 9am-1pm

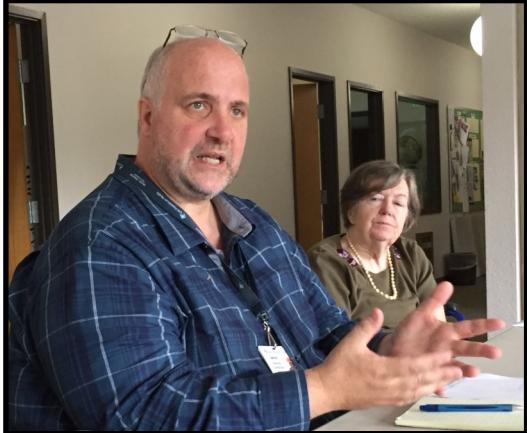


Blessing of the Animals





Thank you for all your generous donations of school supplies. Everything has been delivered to FHN.

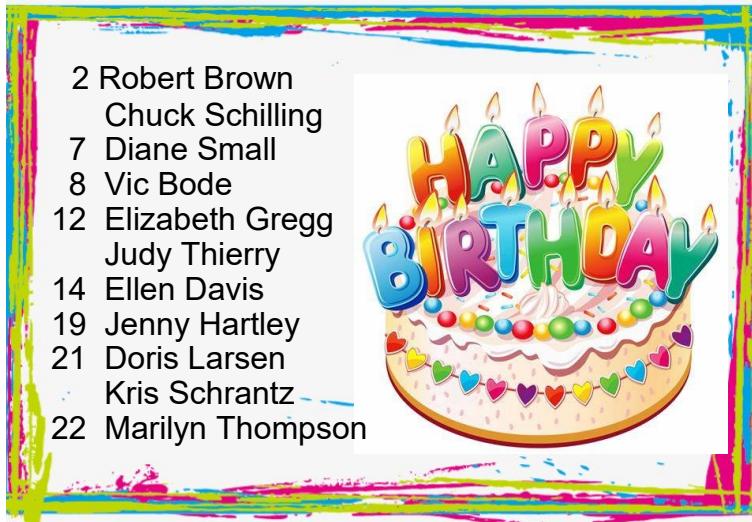


The August Forum brought together 12 UCUP members in a discussion with James Bentley, Volunteer Coordinator for Franciscan Health System's Hospice and Palliative Care Program.

The not for profit program currently serves over 800 individuals and their families in Pierce, Kitsap and southern King County. Initial assessments are free for families.

James solicited questions from the group as we discussed intake, eligibility, costs, the varied nature of terminal illness and both in-home services as well as services for some 20 clients at the Bridgeport facility.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 2 Robert Brown
- Chuck Schilling
- 7 Diane Small
- 8 Vic Bode
- 12 Elizabeth Gregg
- Judy Thierry
- 14 Ellen Davis
- 19 Jenny Hartley
- 21 Doris Larsen
- Kris Schrantz
- 22 Marilyn Thompson



My Sister's Pantry Item of the Month: PEANUT BUTTER

This month My Sister's Pantry is collecting peanut butter. Bring your jars in on any Sunday in June!



KNOW ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED?



Are you a creative person who enjoys sharing your Christian faith with children? Do you like trying new things? Would you like to be part of an inclusive and supportive church community?

United Church in University Place (ucup.org) seeks a Sunday School Coordinator who will plan and teach Sunday School as well as design and lead occasional intergenerational faith formation activities with the whole congregation on Sunday mornings. Part-time, 8-10 hours/week at \$18-\$20/hour. To apply, email cover letter and resume to office@ucup.org by 9/13/2019.



FAITH AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION
August 22, Sharon Britcher and Judy Thierry met with Win Bjarke over lunch to discuss some of her experiences in teaching and organizing UCUP Sunday School.

University Place for Arts Chili Cook-Off

between UP Fire & UP Police was a big hit.

Our church provided hospitality and space in our Fellowship Hall to host the (1st Annual?) UP for Arts Chili Cook-off to raise money for a locally commissioned horse sculpture to grace Curran Apple Orchard. Many thanks to Don & Marilyn Thompson for working with Debbie Klosowski on logistics and set-up, and to Joyce Demarest, Pat Mail, Pamela Maddess, Nancy Moffett, Don Morgan, and Pastor Cathy for volunteering that night. It was great fun.



Older Adult Retreat

When: Sept. 17 (noon) - 19th (After Lunch)

Where: Lazy F Retreat Center

(in the Manastash Canyon near Ellensburg)

Cost: \$170

Plan on joining folks from across the Northwest for our September Adult Retreat. Share in energizing conversations; meals in the new Lodge, and enjoy a few relaxing days at the end of summer in God's beautiful creation.

Talk with Vic Bode or Leslie Ann Knight for more information at (253) 565-1766.



September

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10am	2	3 10am Congregational Care Mtg 1pm Alzheimer's	4 12pm Brown Baggers 5:30 Finance	5 7:30—9:pm Choir	6	7
8 Worship 10am	9 6:30pm Board Mtg	10	11 12pm Brown Baggers	12 7:30—9:pm Choir	13	14
15 Worship 10am	16	17	18 12pm Brown Baggers	19 7:30—9:pm Choir	20	21 9am Beach Clean-up @ Pt. Defiance
22 Worship 10am 4th Sunday Forum with Michael Joseph	23	24 6:30pm SPRC	25 12pm Brown Baggers	26 7:30—9:pm Choir	27	28
29 Worship 10am	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
 Office Admin: Kelly Krisman



Spiritual Formation Survey - What is your soul longing for?
Please take time to fill out this survey and turn in by September 16th.

Spiritual growth focus areas: Which of these focus areas most appeal to you?
(On a scale of 1 -5 with 1 = being less likely to attend and 5 = mostly likely to attend)

- Bible Study
- Relationship building within the church community
- Personal Spiritual Growth
- Service and Outreach to others outside of our church community
- Social Justice (i.e. Poor People's Campaign, Detention Center, Faith Action Network)

Formation format: As you think of the format of a formation group, what most appeals to you
(1 = least appealing and - 5 = most appealing.)

- Teaching with specific content with some relationship building
- Relationship building with some information and focus questions to facilitate the discussion
- Small group accountability, to share deeply about your own spiritual growth
- Spiritual Direction (group or individual)

Topics of Interest - (Check the topics that sound the most appealing to you)

- Prayer practices
- Bible study
- Beliefs and Theology
- Overview of United Methodist or United Church of Christ traditions
- Book study on Christian Spirituality
- Social Issues and Christian response (i.e. White Privilege, Sanctuary Movement - Immigration & Refugees, Poverty, LGBTQIA)
- Spiritual Practices
- Learning about and/or visiting other faith traditions
- OTHER _____

Open ended Questions

1.What would be most helpful for you, to help you grow in your faith?

2.What is your spirit craving to help nurture and feed it?

3.In what ways can UCUP support you in your spiritual growth and development?

Frequency (circle the one that would work best for you)

Weekly Bi-Weekly Monthly Quarterly themes

When

Evening Weekday Midday Weekday Before Church After Church

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

POSTMASTER:
SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ABOVE ADDRESS

Periodicals
Postage Paid at
Tacoma WA 98413

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

Newsletter
Vol. 37 No 9
September 1, 2019

**United Church In
University Place**
3912 Grandview Dr W
University Place, WA. 98466
253-564-2754
office@ucup.org



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** 