



A United Church of Christ/  
United Methodist Church  
& a **LGBTQIA**  
Welcoming Congregation

**UCUP**

# February Newsletter

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

## Shrove Tuesday / Mardi Gras Celebration on Sunday, February 23

We will celebrate the end of the season of Epiphany and the beginning of Lent with a pancake feast following worship on Sunday, February 23rd. 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, coloring Alleluia banners, and burning the palms from Palm Sunday 2019 for our Ash Wednesday service.



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

## Ash Wednesday Service February 26 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.

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.

ASH  
WEDNESDAY

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.

## From Our Outgoing President

Well, it's happened again. In a miracle of democracy, a peaceful transition of power has occurred, and UCUP has a new President. (I assume; it's about 4 days before the Annual Meeting as I write this, but I'm not planning a coup, so we should be fine). I wanted to write one last brief reflection to thank you all again for the amazing place this is, and people you are. The January newsletter article, and the President's Report for the 2020 Annual Report, contain my reflections on the work for the past year, and my thoughts on the future challenges we face, so I won't rehash those here.

You're welcome.

Instead, I want to express my profound thanks to the people of this congregation. Pastor Cathy has mentioned on multiple occasions that one of the things that makes UCUP so distinctive among churches is the remarkably high percentage of those who attend services who are also actively participating in the church ministry, whether through leadership positions, work on committees, helping with worship, singing in the choir or the myriad other roles and tasks that come with an active, vibrant church. Not to mention the high percentage of people who are doing more than one of those things. We may be small, but we are mighty... and even more, we are ENGAGED! That also means that there have been, and are, so many people who say "yes" when those in charge of asking people to do things have to ask. In addition to appreciating how that makes UCUP feel, it also makes it much easier on introverts like me who hate asking anyone to do anything, but end up having to anyway. Thank you all for making what could have been (and, at times, was) a hard job much easier! Please, keep it up. Give things a try. Share your ideas. Check out a new committee. Come to an event. Take the risk, and reap the reward. That's what makes this community the amazing place it is. And it makes the work of the next President and Board SO much easier!



In peace, and a bit more rest,  
Chris Berry  
Plain Old Member of the Congregation

## From Our Incoming President

A Golden New Year, Golden Opportunities

The start of a new program year in the church is a time to not only celebrate the past -- in this case, 50 years in the life of United Church in University Place -- but also, to celebrate the opportunities that a new year brings. In this, our golden year, the opportunities are golden!

As new church officers assume their roles and committees gather in monthly meetings, this is a great time to explore your interests and live out your faith through participation in a committee, your worship and fellowship team, or special events and programs such as the Lenten Study series and Faith Action Network legislative events.

When making the choice to join a committee or sign up for a study program, there's always that moment of hesitation when the classic questions arise: "Do I really have time? Do I want to make a commitment? Do I really want to go to meetings?" The good news is, in most cases, the committee work doesn't take that much time and the meetings can actually be fun and a great chance to learn more about the programs of the church. What's more, in my experience, the time is well-spent and the work of our church is enriching and rewarding.

Several of our committees, including Congregational Care, Peace and Justice, Greening Movement, Faith and Spiritual Growth, Communications, Facilities, and Worship and Adornment, are gearing up for the new year and welcoming new committee members. Whether you are new to the church or looking to make a change in your committee involvement, now is the time! Seize your golden opportunity and help our church be a welcoming and impactful presence through hospitality, outreach in the wider community, education, prayer, and care for one another. I look forward to serving with you!

A GOLDEN  
OPPORTUNITY

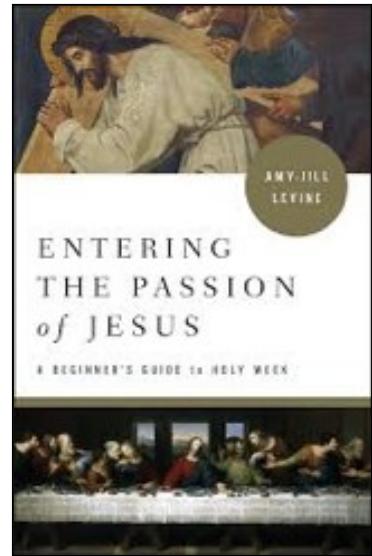
Marilyn Thompson  
Incoming President

# From Pastor Cathy

## LENT WORSHIP SERIES & LENT STUDY - ENTERING THE PASSION

Join us during the season of Lent, both in worship and in study, as we focus on the main events of Holy Week, from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the Garden of Gethsemane from a uniquely Jewish point of view brought to us by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine in her book *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. Dr. Levine is an internationally renowned scholar and author. She is Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. She uses her knowledge of the Hebrew language and the Jewish scriptures and traditions to help us to pay attention and re-frame some of the ways we may have thought about Holy Week. She brings Jewish history, culture and experience into the retelling of the events of Passion Week and in terms of radical risk makes clear how radical the call of Christ is.

Dr. Levine compares the 40 days of Lent to the 10 days between Rosh HaShanah (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) when Jews examine their consciences and make amends for the sins committed in the past year. The idea, as with Lent, is to reflect and repent, to become a better, more caring, more compassionate, person as we respond to ethical and spiritual questions.



The events which take place during the last week of Jesus' life often don't receive enough time in our worship and study. Throughout the six weeks of Lent we will attempt to put ourselves in the picture, thereby "Entering the Passion of Jesus." How might taking a closer look at the ancient story open us to deeper conviction for our role as faithful Christians in its ongoing message?

- February 26, 7 pm - Ash Wednesday: Lent begins
- March 1, 10 am worship - 1st Sunday of Lent: Jerusalem: Risking Reputation
  - » March 4, 6-8 pm - Lent study: Jerusalem: Risking Reputation
- March 8, 10 am worship - 2nd Sunday of Lent: The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
  - » March 11, 6-8 pm - Lent Study: Risking Righteous Anger
- March 15, 10 am worship - 3rd Sunday of Lent: Teachings: Risking Challenge
  - » March 18, 6-8 pm - Lent Study: Teachings: Risking Challenge
- March 22, 10 am worship - 4th Sunday of Lent: The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
  - » March 25, 6-8 pm - Lent Study: The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
- March 29, 10 worship - 5th Sunday of Lent: The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends
  - » April 1, 6-8 pm - Lent Study: The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends
- April 5, 10 am - 6th Sunday of Lent: Gethsemane: Risking Temptation
  - » April 8 - 6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday service
- April 12, EASTER

Our Lent study (Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm) will offer an opportunity to discuss in a meaningful way what was presented during Sunday worship. We will share in a simple meal, followed by the study.



## Epiphany Spiral



Thanks to your generous donations, UCUP sent a total of \$2,065 split evenly between UCC and UMC Disaster Relief Funds.

***Thank you for helping to change lives.***

Pastor Cathy with District Superintendent Derek Nakano at our Annual Meeting



## NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Roger Balcom

The son of a Baptist father and a Methodist mother, grew up in Seattle. He attended Haverford College, a small Quaker institution outside Philadelphia, graduating with a B.A. in History in 1982. He also received an M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, in 1993. He has been a salesman, an American Baptist pastor of two congregations, and has worked in elementary education for 18 years, most recently with the South Kitsap School District. His hobbies are reading history, cartooning, working crossword puzzles, acting, and humor writing. Roger has been married to Laura Balcom for almost 36 years and is the proud father of Tim Balcom.

# 2020 Martin Luther King, JR. Lifetime Service Award



TACOMA  
COMMUNITY  
HOUSE



On Monday, January 20, the City of Tacoma City Events and Recognition Committee hosted its annual event to honor the work and memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. The event included music and dance groups and presentation of service awards. Dignitaries in attendance included: Washington Governor-Jay Inslee, Tacoma Mayor-Victoria Woodards, and Dean of Evergreen Tacoma Dr. Maria Tate Arunga.



I attended with several members of the Executive Board of Tacoma Community House, a settlement house opened in the Hilltop area of Tacoma 110 years ago. We didn't play any instruments or perform a dance routine but *Tacoma Community House (TCH) did receive the MLK Lifetime Service Award for its work with immigrants and refugees!*

The four areas of community service that TCH has focused on include Immigration Assistance, Navigating the Path to Naturalization, English Language Education, and

Employment. Recently, Crime Victim Advocacy has become a large part of the help provided to immigrants. TCH Executive Director Lauren Walker Lee accepted the award and invited all of today's event attendees to come to the TCH Annual Luncheon to be held on Friday, April 17 at noon. (Nice plug Lauren!)

Plenty of cameras were rolling throughout the event. Videos can be seen on [tv.tacoma.com](http://tv.tacoma.com). See Kay Shaben for more information about the Annual Luncheon at (253) 906-7696 or (253) 564-2536 or email at [kayshaben@hotmail.com](mailto:kayshaben@hotmail.com).

**FAITH ACTION NETWORK**  
A Partnership for the Common Good

## Interfaith Advocacy Days 2020

Join advocates in your legislative  
district to bring voices of  
compassion and justice to our  
elected officials

**Thursday, February 6**

Please let Robert  
or Judy know  
if you'd like to attend

The Faith Action Network sponsors Interfaith Action Day in Olympia each year. This is a chance to let our legislators know what is on the minds of Christians as to their legislative priorities. It is also to introduce our priorities to them. Please let Robert or Judy know if you plan to come. We will work on setting up car pools to make this work for everyone. Arrival at United Churches in Olympia should be by 8:30, and the departure time is dependent upon your representatives' scheduled appointment time. All appointments are scheduled to occur before 3:00. The morning is jam-packed with information and meeting with people from your legislative district. The afternoon has the appointments and visits from particular legislators scheduled to take place on your break times. Besides allowing you to speak up for your own priorities, this is an excellent chance to support the work of Faith Action Network.



## Joys & Concerns

175, that was the count for the Christmas Eve service...and some of the visitors that came that evening have been back —hope you've had a chance to welcome them. Writing of Christmas in their Christmas letter, former members Mary and John Pauley, send their best wishes from Frederick, Maryland.

Our prayers of sympathy to Nancy Davis and family on the death of her sister Bette...Prayers for safe travel for Kay Shaben's son traveling from Iraq and for his family still there...for The Rev. Dee Eisenhower as she goes thought treatment for breast cancer...and prayers of thanks that Lou Lehmann's daughter has responded so well to her treatment for breast cancer.

The Tacoma Community House was given the Martin Luther King Award for their service and dedication toward racial justice on MLK Day, at the Tacoma Convention Center. Kay Shaben was one of those the award was presented to. The Tacoma Community House was started **110** years ago by Methodist women.

Maybe you haven't seen him yet, but there's a new dog at church (sometimes), his name is Benson and he belongs to Tanya and Joe...or they belong to him!

Please remember our shut-ins and those that just have a hard time getting to church: Michael Marcoe...Donna Shoe...Win Bjarke...Laura & Blanche Beesley...Deb Howard...Yvonne Begeman...Mollie Chaffee...Linda Vanderbilt...Randi Byrd...Michelle Wallace and Doris Larsen...maybe add these names to the list you're going to send valentines to?

The Care & Concerns Committee would like to thank Chris Berry for his leadership the past 2 years and Marilyn Thompson for agreeing to be our president for the coming year. THANK YOU and THANK YOU!

**My Sister's Pantry Item of the Month: Top Ramen or Cup of Soup**

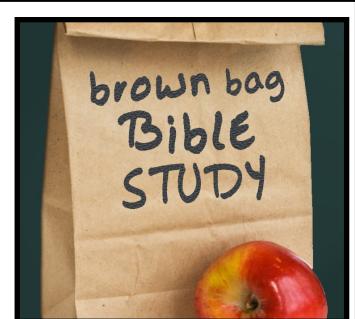


## February Birthdays

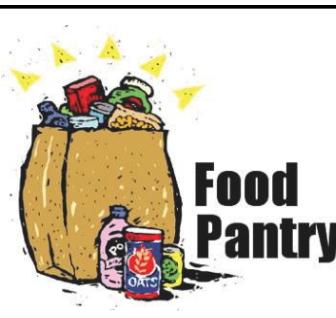
8 Neva Laurie-Berry  
13 Roger Balcom  
16 Dorothy McCuistion  
20 Joyce Lane  
21 Soren Fohrman  
29 Win Bjarke (her 24<sup>th</sup>)



Beginning in March the study group Brown Baggers will be viewing and discussing a video course "Introduction to the New Testament".



Lots of interesting facts and new ideas. Bring your lunch at noon; video and discussion at 1 PM to 2 PM. All men and women welcome.

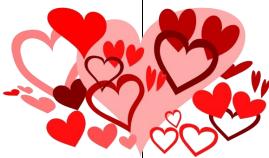


## VOLUNTEER

UCUP will be volunteering at My Sister's Pantry food bank on Saturday, February 22nd, at First United Methodist Church. Questions? Please contact Sheila Higby at (509) 947-9608 or [shhigby@aol.com](mailto:shhigby@aol.com) Please arrive at 10 am. Doors open at 10:30 and we will volunteer until 12:30 pm.

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

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 10am	3	4 10am Congregational Care 1pm Alzheimer's	5 12pm Brown Baggers Finance 5:30pm	6 Interfaith Action Day in Olympia 8:30am 7:30—9pm Choir	7	8
9 Worship 10am	10 Board mtg 6:30pm	11	12 12pm Brown Baggers	13 7:30—9pm Choir	14	15
16 Worship 10am	17	18 Men's Group 6:30pm	19 12pm Brown Baggers	20 7:30—9pm Choir	21	22 UCUP Volunteering My Sister's Pantry 10:30-12:30pm
23 Worship 10am 	24	25 SPRC 6:30pm	26 12pm Brown Baggers  7pm	27 7:30—9pm Choir	28	29
<u><a href="#">Church Contact</a></u> (253) 564-2754 <a href="mailto:office@ucup.org">office@ucup.org</a> <a href="mailto:pastor@ucup.org">pastor@ucup.org</a> <a href="http://www.ucup.org">www.ucup.org</a>	<u><a href="#">Church Employees</a></u> Rev. Cathlynn Law Music Director: Jeff Andersen Nursery Attendant: Addy Harding Office Admin: Kelly Krisman					

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Or where you are on life's journey, **you're**  
**Welcome here.**

**Newsletter**

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February 1, 2020

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



**Weekly**

**Sundays**  
10am Worship Service  
10:15am Elementary/Youth  
Sunday School  
**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  
**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

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