



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

UCUP

March Newsletter

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

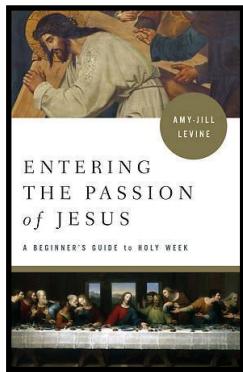
Celebrate our Gifts and Plan for the Future at All-Church Retreat

Great things are happening at United Church in U.P., and we want to share the good news! All are invited to participate in the all-church retreat on Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will review the church mission and goals and identify the many gifts and capabilities that bring energy and opportunity to our faith community. In break-out sessions with committees and worship and fellowship teams, we'll consider how our work and programs fulfill the mission of United Church in University Place. We'll also explore the biblical understanding of hospitality and talk about how we can extend a warm welcome to all in our church and in our community. The retreat will take place in the church fellowship hall, and lunch will be provided. If you would like to participate and have not already signed up, please contact Kelly in the church office.



*Please note that the Narrows Pre-School is holding an open house on the same day. Please park in the main, upper lot, unless lower level parking is needed for accessibility.

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 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. Our Lent study will offer an opportunity to discuss what was presented during Sunday worship.

Join the study on *either*:

- Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:45am on March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 5th (facilitated by Angie Wolle)
- **OR** Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm - March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1st
(facilitated by Leslie Ann Knight, Tanya Sorenson and Angie Wolle)

The Wednesday evening study will include a simple soup supper. See Cathi Cline if you are able to provide soup. The rest of us will provide fruit/veggies and other easy snacks.

Books are \$10. Please let Pastor Cathy know if you would like to purchase one. We plan to order more if desired.

From Our President

February was a busy month at United Church in University Place. As we continue to celebrate our golden anniversary and 50 years of ministry, we can stretch the golden theme a bit to say that in the month when we celebrated Valentine's Day, we also shared our hearts of gold! Church members showed a lot of heart when seven us participated in the Faith Action Network Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia. This was my first experience with the FAN Advocacy Day, and what an experience it was! FAN brings impressive organization and connections to this day at our state capitol. We had an opportunity to learn about a variety of bills that are being considered in this legislative session, and had fruitful meetings with our state representatives. Thanks to Robert Brown for coordinating our attendance at this event and for representing UCUP so faithfully in our affiliation with FAN.



This church also has big hearts when it comes to our love, care and concern for each other. On February 9th we bade farewell to A.J. Rowatt, who is moving to Winnemucca, Nevada. A.J. has been a special member of our church family and we will miss her! We have especially appreciated her musical gifts, and her place in the choir loft looks empty.

People with golden hearts work hard to serve others, and on February 22nd it was time for a team from UCUP to help at My Sister's Pantry. It was another busy day at the pantry, as the needs for food and clothing assistance continue to be significant in the greater Tacoma area.

With heartfelt Alleluias, we celebrated Mardi Gras and Shrove Tuesday (on a Sunday), with pancakes, a hearty brunch, and fellowship. We ended the month with quiet reflection on Ash Wednesday, and entered the season of Lent.

In the month ahead we are invited to participate in an adult study series that is based on biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*. You can join the study groups before church on Sundays, or as part of the traditional Wednesday evening soup suppers.

We're also looking forward to an all-church retreat on March 7th, and encourage all church members to participate as we celebrate our gifts and consider how we can fulfill the mission of United Church in U.P. (See the article in this newsletter for more details.)

Gather us in, golden-hearted people, as we live out our mission: We are United with God, United in Love, United to Serve Others.

Marilyn Thompson,
President

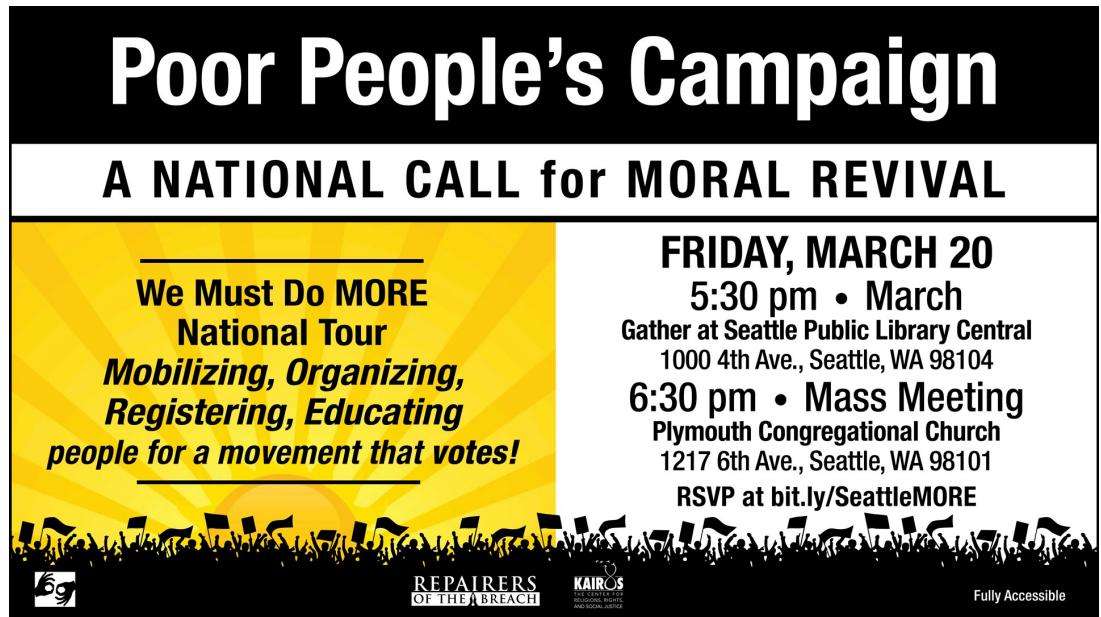
Emergency Food Network to Present Fourth Sunday Forum



A representative from the Emergency Food Network will present a Fourth Sunday Forum following the worship service on March 22. Claire Grubb, Development Coordinator for the EFN, will provide an update on how the network is serving 80 food pantries, meal sites, and shelters in Pierce County. The Emergency Food Network provides 14 million pounds of healthy, nutritious food annually for distribution to families and individuals in need. There are more than 1.3 million visits to food pantries and meal sites in the county each year, and 54 percent of these visits are children and seniors. The forum will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Orchard View Room.

From Pastor Cathy

The United Church of Christ endorsed the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival in 2018. Cathi Cline, Leslie Ann Knight, Tom Milligan, Jan Van Pelt and I participated in the 40 days of action and advocacy in the spring of 2018 by showing up several different times at the state capitol in Olympia as some in our group chose to be arrested for civil disobedience..



Poor People's Campaign

A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

We Must Do MORE National Tour
Mobilizing, Organizing, Registering, Educating people for a movement that votes!

FRIDAY, MARCH 20
5:30 pm • March
Gather at Seattle Public Library Central
1000 4th Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

6:30 pm • Mass Meeting
Plymouth Congregational Church
1217 6th Ave., Seattle, WA 98101

RSVP at bit.ly/SeattleMORE

Fully Accessible

The Poor People's Campaign:

A National Call for Moral Revival is organizing a 25-state "We Must Do MORE National Tour!" from September 2019 - May 2020. This tour will lead into the Mass Poor People's Assembly & Moral March on Washington, where thousands of poor people, advocates, and faith leaders will gather at the nation's capitol on June 20th to demonstrate their power. We will call people of conscience to engage in deeply moral civic engagement and voting that cares about poor and low-wealth people, the sick, immigrants, workers, the environment, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, and Peace over war. The We Must Do MORE Tour will shine a light on the conditions of those most impacted by systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.

Please pray for this movement, AND if you are able to attend and lend your voice, presence and advocacy to stand with the least of these, those who have been cast to the margins, and do God's work in the public square, there will be a moral march and mass meeting Friday, March 20th.

Who: Washington State Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival & Campaign

Co-Chairs: Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

What: We Must Do MORE National Tour | Seattle, WA moral march and mass meeting

When: Friday, March 20th, 5:30 PM March, 6:30 PM Mass Meeting

Where: March departs from **Seattle Central Library**, 1000 4th Ave., Seattle, WA

Mass meeting is at **Plymouth Congregational Church**, 1217 6th Ave., Seattle, WA

Why: Join with the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival as we challenge the nation to do MORE! We are committed to mobilizing, organization, registration, and education to address systemic racism, poverty and inequality, the war economy and militarism, ecological devastation, and our nation's distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.

At the Mass Meeting, we will hear from community members directly impacted by systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the corrupt moral narrative. We will also hear from Rev. Barber and Rev. Theoharis.

I am planning to attend this gathering in Seattle. Lent is a good season to confront injustice. Let me know if you would like to attend with me.



2020 Church Budget

At the annual meeting and charge conference meeting on January 26, 2020, the UCUP congregation voted to approve the 2020 budget proposed by the Finance Committee and previously approved by the Board. An overall summary of the budget and a comparison with 2019 is shown in the table below:

Year	Budgeted			Actual		
	Income	Expenses	Deficit	Income	Expenses	Surplus
2019	\$183,680*	\$195,650*	-\$11,950*	\$186,774	\$184,374*	\$2,374*
2020	\$182,462	\$191,452	(\$8,991)			

* Value has been corrected from what was presented in the Year-End Report

What do these numbers tell us?

We finished 2019 in the black after planning for being nearly \$12,000 in the red. What happened? We changed how the staff payroll was managed in 2019, and as a result of the timing of payroll expenses, we only had 11 months of expenses in 2019. That particular scenario won't happen again in 2020. Additional savings were realized when we were unable to fill the Sunday school teacher position.

The approved 2020 budget identifies a nearly \$9,000 deficit. The original budget and resulting deficit would have been even larger, but the board made the difficult decision to cut the unfilled Sunday school teacher position. Putting additional resources toward our children and youth is a goal that the church will likely want to revisit as we plan for our future.

What does a deficit mean for the church? It means that we will likely need to dip into our savings to cover budgeted expenses in 2020. The church has a sizeable nest egg: on the order of \$160,000 invested with the UCC and UMC families of investment funds. The budgeted 2020 deficit represents about 6% of our savings. We are taking steps to move \$10,000 into a low risk, money-market type fund so that it is protected from a sudden crisis in the financial markets in the event that we need it this year to cover the deficit. While having to spend 6% of our savings isn't an emergency by any means, it's clearly not sustainable over the long run.

What can be done to mitigate the deficit? The Finance Committee recommended several actions at the February Board Meeting. First, to communicate to the congregation the fact that we have a deficit budget in 2020. Second, to hold a fundraising event of some kind in 2020. The Board is considering a combination silent auction/dinner/choir performance, to be held mid-year. Finally, the Communications Committee is considering ways to better advertise that we have space available for rent.

What can individual congregation members do? Lots! Get involved with planning the fundraising event, donate items for the silent auction, put a little extra in the plate on Sunday, and if you can, increase your pledge for 2020.

Dave Higby, Chair
Finance Committee

All of us at CCS/Family Housing Network would like to sincerely thank you for the blessings you gave our clients this Christmas. A lot of the staff were able to hand deliver gifts, or saw our clients if they were able to pick up their gifts at our office. I can tell you that our clients were truly moved, some to tears, and all were so very thankful. Being able to help provide a happy Christmas to our clients' kiddos means so much to them. This year was also special because some of our most vulnerable single adult veterans were blessed with gifts. We truly appreciate you and your generous hearts, and we couldn't make Christmas for the families that we serve so special without you!



Kristy Parrick
CCS/Family Housing Network
Lead Case Manager



CONGRATULATIONS NANCY TAM DAVIS

Nancy is currently serving this quadrennium as the Lay Leader of the PNWUMC Conference. Nancy was recently elected President of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders for the global denomination of the United Methodist Church. See below for Nancy's perspective on this role.

I just returned from the annual Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders in Nashville TN, a gathering of United Methodist Annual Conference Lay Leaders throughout the world. It was clear that we await the decisions of General Conference in May 2020 that will likely both unite and divide us. We have more questions than answers. One thing is clear and that is the passion we all have for the work of Laity in our Faith. We need to keep the main thing, the main thing!

As we are nearing the beginning of a new quadrennium in the United Methodist Church, new leaders were chosen to take us into that new future. As a result, I am proud to say I am the new president of the Association. I was elected for a 2-year term along with a very exciting executive board.

- Nancy Tam Davis, President – Pacific Northwest Conference
- LaToya Redd Thompson, Vice President – Mississippi Conference
- Gayla Jo Slauson, Secretary – Mountain Sky Conference
- David Koch, Treasurer – Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
- Michael Pope, Western Jurisdiction At Large – Cal/Nevada
- Simon Mafunda, Central Conference At Large – Zimbabwe East
- Margaret Borgen, North Central Conference At Large – Iowa



Please pray for us all as we hold all of you in our prayers.

Peace and Blessings,
Nancy Tam Davis



Item of the Month:

liquid laundry detergent

It's important it be liquid detergent because volunteers at the food bank transfer small amounts of the detergent to plastic water bottles for the homeless to use at laundromats.





Joys & Concerns

There were pancakes, both for eating and flipping, necklaces of colorful beads and masks to wear, songs to sing and a lot of fellowship going on, both at the tables and in the kitchen. Sorry if you missed the Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday Celebration held after our worship service on the 22nd. I think a good time was had by all. We need to thank those that set everything up, those that brought food, Pastor Cathy and Don Thompson for leading the singing with their guitar playing.....and a big THANK YOU to those who helped: Pat Mail, Rosemary Jones, and Kris Schrantz for decorating (and to Pamela Maddess who loans her fantastic decorations to us year after year; Jim Cash, Cathi Cline, and Dave & Sheila Higby for cooking up pancakes and bacon; Cathi Cline, Joyce Demarest, Joy & Tanya Becker, Kay Shaben for egg casseroles; Cindi Bode, Norma Rader, Rosemary & Kris; and Bill & Vicki Diamond for fruit plates; Pat Mail, Laura Giddings, Nancy Moffett for pancake toppings; Vic Bode, our resident coffee maker; and to Jim Cash, Renee Gillard, Ruth Cannon, Judy Thierry, Joyce Demarest, Chris Berry, Don Thompson for cleaning up. It takes a village to make a good party. And now we can begin the liturgical season of Lent with our ashes from last year's palm branches.



Time to say goodbye.

February 9th was the last day AJ (Rowatt) was with us before her move to Winnemucca, Nevada. We have been blessed to have her with us the last few years...and to hear her beautiful voice and violin playing, she shared both of those talents, one more time, on her last day.

Welcome Roger Balcom! Roger joined us as an associate member on February 3rd. He was to join last November, but a cold kept him from church for a few Sundays. We pray that we all stay well, no colds or flu and no sharing if you do get one.

Remember to keep those that are unable to get to church, due to health or transportation problems in your prayers: Michael Marcoe...Donna Shoe...Win Bjarke...Laura & Blanche Beesley...Deb Howard...Yvonne Bergeman...Mollie Chaffee...Linda Vanderbilt...Randi Byrd...Michelle Wallace...Doris Larsen.



Have you noticed all the daffodils coming up?! Our thanks to the planters.

March Birthdays

- 4 Dennis Small
- 10 Elizabeth Ohls
- 11 Roger Martin
- 14 Jimmy Bodie – 12
- 16 Susan Kelly
- Allison Milligan
- 29 Cecelia Schilling





Burning of the Ashes



OGHS and UMCOR Sunday



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On March 22, UCUP will receive a special offering to help fund One Great Hour of Sharing and the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This is a once-a-year special offering that we take to help us all be a presence of compassion and assistance in a world torn by disasters, poverty, climate change and violence. Those who are severely impacted by these things need our help, our love, and our prayers. This church has always been generous with all of this and I know we will continue to do so. But on this special Sunday, we have an opportunity to give financially as generously as we can in order that the assistance needed can reach those who need it most. Thank you all.

Cathi Cline, for Peace and Justice Committee



On Thursday, February 6, Faith Action Network hosted its annual Interfaith Action Day. United Church in University Place was represented by Neil Rader, Chris Berry, Marilyn Thompson, Cathy Law, Cathi Cline, Judy Thierry, and Robert Brown. We met at about 8:30 for registration at United Churches of Olympia, spent the opening session in the sanctuary listening to FAN's leaders, heard from new Speaker of the House, Laurie Jinkins and Rabbi Goldstein. After this, we met with members of our legislative districts, and then had two workshop sessions on five different issues. Workshops

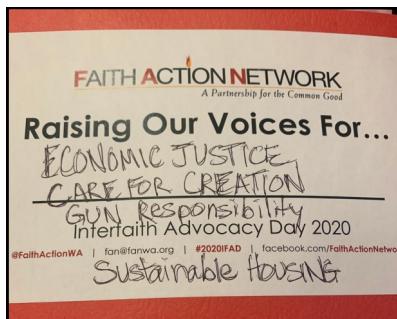
were led by Earth Ministry, the Alliance for Gun Responsibility, Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, FAN's health care work group, and Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. These sessions allowed us to have access to information which we could later share with our legislators.

After lunch, we met with our legislators, and we spent some additional time in the basement of the Pritchard Library listening to more presentations by legislators about their issues of concern.

For the 28th District, in which our church lives, our group met with Christine Kilduff in person and we met with Mari Leavitt's legislative assistant. The office of Senator Steven O'Ban was unavailable due to busy-ness on other issues or with other groups. Both of our representatives are very supportive of our positions.

Some of those who attended for the first time told me they were very impressed with the detailed work Faith Action Network put into the day. They were also saying to me they felt quite empowered by being listened to by their representatives. All in all, this was an excellent experience.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Brown



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

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Lenten Study 8:45—9:45am Worship 10am	2	3 10am Congregational Care 1pm Alzheimer's	4 12pm BB P&J 3:30pm Finance 5:30p Lenten Study 6-8pm	5 Choir 7:30—9pm	6	7 All Church Retreat 9am—3pm 
8 Lenten Study 8:45—9:45am Worship 10am	9 Board mtg 6:30pm	10 SPRC 6:30pm	11 12pm Brown Baggers Lenten Study 6-8pm	12 Choir 7:30—9pm	13	14
15 Lenten Study 8:45—9:45am Worship 10am	16	 17 Men's Group 6:30pm	18 12pm Brown Baggers Lenten Study 6-8pm	19 Choir 7:30—9pm	20	21 
22 Lenten Study 8:45—9:45am Worship 10am 4th Sunday Forum EFN 11:30am	23	24	25 12pm Brown Baggers Lenten Study 6-8pm	26 Choir 7:30—9pm	27	28
29 Lenten Study 8:45—9:45am Worship 10am	30	31				

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March 1, 2020

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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

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