



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

UCUP

April Newsletter ²⁰²⁰

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

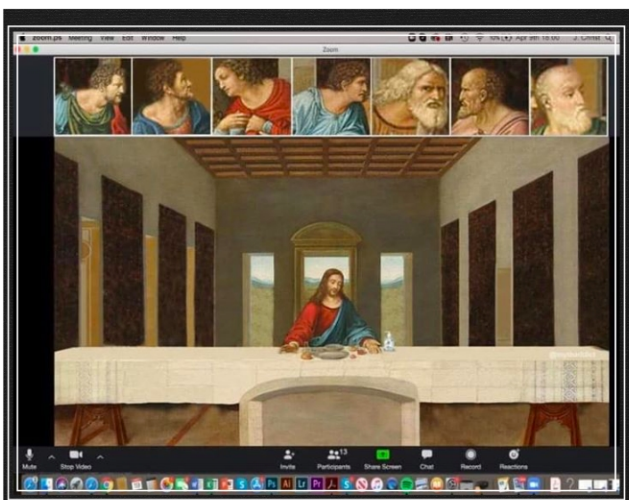
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

PALM SUNDAY - April 5th - 10 am

Our Holy Week and Easter services will definitely have a different feel this year. We won't be gathering in person, but we can be in solidarity wherever we are by raising our palms in the air. Literally, our very clean palms, from washing them so often, or if you can find some indigenous ferns or branches to wave from wherever you are. Find a photographer or take a selfie and send IMMEDIATELY to pastor@ucup.org so we can use your photo in a Palm Sunday slide show for our Zoom worship that will be shown on Facebook this Sunday. We miss seeing each other's faces, so this is a good way to be seen and gladden our hearts. The Smalls, Cathi, and Janet saw my email on Wednesday night and responded. The more photos, the more fun. Get yours in today - literally!!!



MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 9th - 6:30pm



We will join together on zoom (zoom link will be emailed out early next week) to commemorate the last night Jesus spent with his followers in the Upper Room for the Jewish observance of Passover. This photo looks very similar to how we will gather in our own "Upper Zoom". In the Upper Room, Jesus offered one command (mandatum) from the Gospel of John (15:12): "Love each other as I have loved you", and another from the Gospel of Luke (22:19): "Do this in remembrance of me". The synoptic gospels record "The Last Supper", where Jesus broke bread and shared wine with his disciples. We will join in Holy Communion with whatever symbolic bread and juice or wine you have at home. We will hear reflections about Holy Week from people in our congregation, and listen to the ancient story of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane where he is betrayed and arrested.

EASTER SUNDAY - April 12th - 10 am (Zoom link to be sent out early next week)

This will be the first Easter in many years where we won't meet in the Orchard in the chilly dawn to greet one another with the words: "Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!" It will be the first Sunday without organ and trumpet playing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today". It WILL be an Easter to remember as we recall the first disciples were also sequestered at home, with a different fear of leaving their shelter.



From Our Pastor



Worshiping from home is *literally* Biblical. In the early days of the Christian church followers of Jesus - gathered together for a meal to worship God at home. The Apostle Paul traveled throughout the ancient world to preach the Good News and continued a relationship with people and faith communities where he had traveled by sending letters. They were early sources of instruction in the Christian faith. Rev. Jim Keat of Riverside Church in New York City said: *"Paul used the Roman road system to send mail. The Internet is just a faster version of that now."* We are living into the early Christian method right now: using the avenues available to communicate the Gospel. Paul used letters and Roman roads, and we are using whatever internet platforms we can. It's the same message, distributed just like the early church. Just a bit faster.

We will continue to join with one another on Easter and throughout April from our own homes on Zoom and/or Facebook as we celebrate the resurrection story and places of resurrection in our midst.

Last fall we planted daffodils in loving memory of the saints who have gone before us with rich symbolism of planting in the darkness of fall and waiting for God's surprise in the spring. Those bulbs have blossomed into bright beautiful daffodils. *In the bulb, there is a flower; in the seed an apple tree, in cocoons a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free. In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.* We don't know what will happen with this virus in our midst, or when we can emerge from our cocoons. But as Easter people we trust that all will be revealed in God's time, as we continue to live the resurrection promise.



It takes a village in the midst of "Sheltering at Home" to keep the connections going within the life of the church. UCUP has entered into the 21st century by live-streaming our worship services from the church and from our homes. The first two weeks, Jeff came to play, and we led worship with a small crew/choir gathered - Neva Laurie-Berry, Don Morgan, Amara Oden, Judy Thierry, and Angie Wolle.

Tom Milligan will put his producer hat on and join the tech team of Amara and Neva and me, as we attempt to bring worship together from our different homes.

Our President, Marilyn Thompson has been busy connecting with people and calling a special Board meeting to bring us together to pray and find a way forward in this time. Dave Higby and Don Thompson have been busy finding ways to broaden the ways of how people can support UCUP.

Worship and Fellowship team leaders have met on zoom to ensure our connection with each other by setting up meetings on zoom with their groups. Sunday School teachers have met so we could find ways of continuing a connection with our kids. I am also hearing stories of how you are reaching out to one another through phone calls and sending cards.

In the midst of our personal connections we've also discovered that our church has a broader reach - both in our recent on-line services as well as the reach of our Reader Board. Wednesday, I checked the mailbox just to make sure all mail was being forwarded to a safely locked box. Lo, and behold, I discovered a hand-written envelope without a stamp on it. There was a note AND a check.

My husband and I would like to make a small contribution to your church. In this time of social distancing, I would like you to know that the light you shine in our community is appreciated. We are not members of your church, but living just down the road and drive by quite often and see your signs. We moved to UP three years ago and have been reluctant to attend a new church, but yours has subtly been calling to us. We hope to meet you in person as soon as all this issue is behind us. In the meantime, having been on other church finance committees, we hope this will help a little.

God is love! All the time! All the time! God is love! May we claim the love of God and the love of each other in the midst of this difficult chapter in our world. And may our little church continue to offer compassion and love to our wider community.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

At church and at home, I love traditions. At this time of year, I love the familiar hymns that we sing on Palm Sunday and Easter; I have grown to love the birdsong and peace of the orchard at our (very early) Easter sunrise service; I love the clear, soaring notes of the trumpet at the Easter service; and I love having family gather at Aunt Marilyn and Uncle Don's house for Easter dinner. This year will be different.

As we shelter at home amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we won't be able to experience many of our traditional celebrations around Holy Week. I've thought about this a lot, and have pondered the juxtaposition of this health crisis with Lent and Holy Week. It's a pretty powerful punch to get us to think about what's most important in our lives, and to consider the messages woven through the familiar stories of the Passion and Easter.

Even as we shelter in our homes, we can still be Easter people, and we can be an Easter church. It's actually pretty amazing to consider how quickly United Church in University Place has adapted to being a virtual church, reaching nearly all of our members through Facebook Live, ZOOM, phone calls, and e-mail. Even more remarkable, we're drawing in people who aren't able to regularly attend church, and we've welcomed some new visitors through our online worship. It's a story of sadness, fear, surprise, hope, and renewal. Sound familiar?

As we continue to discover new ways to connect with our church community and worship, study, and share with one another, I believe we may find ourselves building some new traditions. We will emerge from this health crisis to a changed world. The opportunity, and the invitation, is to embrace the change and celebrate the new avenues we're discovering for connecting, sharing, welcoming, and living out our faith.



We are grateful for the leadership and creativity of our Pastor Cathy, and we are thankful for the work of all those who have helped with worship, care of our church property, and stewardship of church programs and finances. We are a connected and vibrant Easter church!

Good health to all,
Marilyn Thompson,
President

FROM YOUR UCUP FINANCE COMMITTEE - NEW WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

We face the likelihood of worshiping online for several weeks or months. This impacts each of us emotionally and spiritually at the very time we need it most.

Likewise, the inability to meet together impacts our church financially. Our staff continue to serve us creatively. Other expenses continue with little or no reduction.

We began this year with a small but manageable deficit in our 2020 budget. Thanks to faithful giving already in 2020, and to a few who have generously increased their pledges, we are holding our own. However, a 6-8 week inability to gather for worship could further undermine our financial position.

This “new normal” provides an opportunity to explore other ways to contribute more easily, consistently, and perhaps save on taxes.

1. Bill Pay via your bank or credit union.

Banks or credit unions may use slightly different names for this service. The procedure may vary a little. You instruct the bank or credit union to send a check to the church one time or on a recurring basis—weekly, monthly, etc. There is no fee.

You can set up the process online. If you prefer, or do not use online banking, you can speak to a bank representative in person or by phone. They will guide you in setting up the process. The church will receive a check, just as if you had written one and mailed it. You can stop the Bill Pay or change the amount anytime.

2. Qualified Charitable Contribution from your IRA.

If you are at least 70.5 years old you can authorize a check to be sent to the church from your IRA account. The check must be written to the church, not you. It can help meet your required minimum distribution as well. You cannot claim the contribution as a deduction. However, it will not be counted as income on your tax return. You effectively receive a “deduction” for your contribution even when you take a standard deduction.

The IRS has specific rules that must be followed. Consult with your tax or financial advisor.

3. Send a check.

Though not a high-tech method, this takes just a little extra effort—and a stamp. For your security, all church mail is being forwarded to a secure mailbox, so your check won't sit in the church mailbox.

4. On-line giving.

As I write this, we are in the process of setting up the ability to donate on-line from the UCUP website. You will have the option of paying by bill pay or debit/credit card. Stand by for more information on this.

Whatever alternative you choose, we encourage you to continue your giving, participating in our online worship and connecting with others by phone, email, Facebook, and other virus-safe means. We do need each other.

Your UCUP Finance Committee,
David Higby, Chair
Cathi Cline, Treasurer
Don Thompson, Financial Secretary
Pastor Cathy Law
Jim Cash
Pat Mail
Dawn Foreman



*Happy 24th
Birthday Win!*



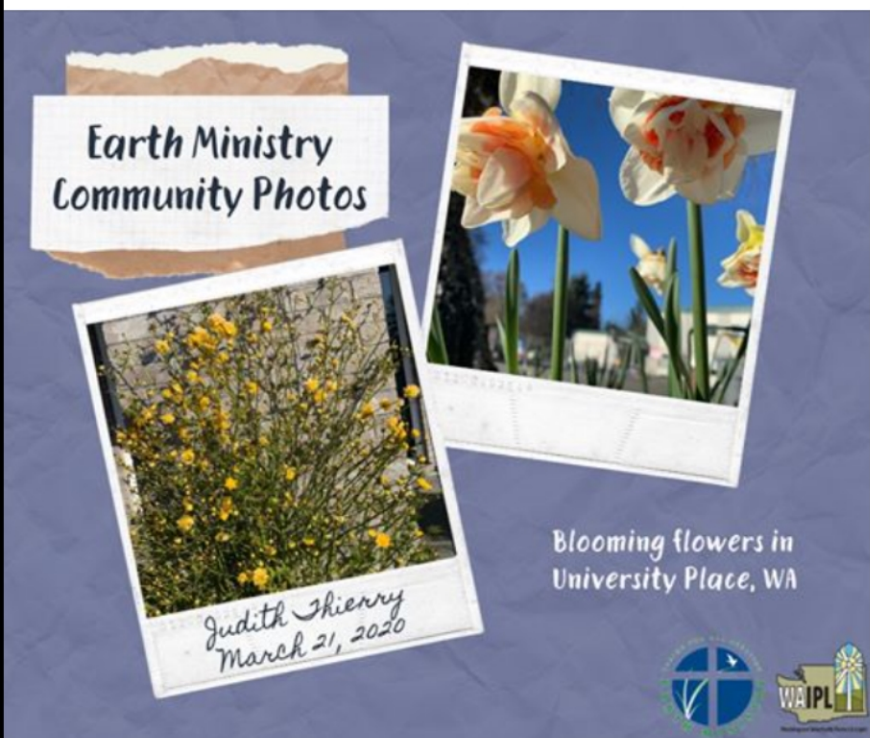
What a celebration we had for Win's 24th Leap Year Birthday. Chris Bjarke hosted us at Merrill Gardens in Renton where Win now lives. We enjoyed delicious cake and good fellowship. Robert Brown, Jim & Fran Cash, Renee Gillard, Nancy Moffett, Kathy Munn and Pastor Cathy enjoyed the festivities. And Al Demarest was also able to join us, as well as UCUP friends from long ago.



Thanks to Judith for sending us these photos of lovely spring flowers in University Place!

To join in our new [#EMcommunityphotos](#) send a pic from your day that captures creation, caring, or community to emoffice@earthministry.org.

[#EarthMinistry](#) [#WashingtonIPL](#) [#physicaldistancingsocialconnecting](#)
[#hopeincreation](#) [#faithandenvironment](#) [#springflowers](#)



Judy's beautiful flowers made it onto Earth Ministry's Facebook page!



Pandemic

*What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?*

Cease from travel.

Cease from buying and selling.

*Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.*

*Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.*

Center down.

*And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.*

*Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)*

*Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)*

Do not reach out your hands.

Reach out your heart.

Reach out your words.

*Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.*

*Promise this world your love--
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.*

~Lynn Ungar 3/11/20



FAN's Census Equity team continues their work for a full and equitable 2020 Census. It is vital that every person gets counted in the 2020 Census.

The data collected by the 2020 Census will affect the power of our voice through political representation and the federal distribution of resources coming to our communities for education, social services, transit and more. FAN has been involved in spreading the word and pushing back against the proposed citizenship question that has been ruled unconstitutional.



While our plans for in-person outreach have been put on hold, it has never been easier for households to respond online, by phone, or mail during this stay-at-home time. It takes just 10 minutes and impacts the next 10 years of funding for our communities' healthcare, schools, access to public transportation, and more. This is our one shot to shape the next 10 years!

1. Online. Look for your letter from the Census that provides an internet link and a personalized Census ID# to participate. This is a great opportunity to involve your children! Get started online at 2020census.gov

2. By phone: Call 844-330-2020 for English, 844-468-2020 for Spanish. You can complete the census by phone in 14 languages or TDD. Phone numbers are here: 2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond/responding-by-phone.html

3. By mail. Some people will automatically get a census form in the mail to complete by hand. Later, if you haven't responded online or by phone, you will also receive a form in the mail.

*****Important Note***** *You should not be asked to fill out a census form by email, and you will never be asked to provide your social security number, bank account numbers, or other private security information. You should not be asked to fill out the census in order to qualify for payment, including a stimulus check. If you are, ignore it. That is a scam. There is no citizenship question on the census. According to law, the results cannot go to law enforcement, ICE, or your landlord. It is safe and secure.*

For more information please visit FAN's website at fanwa.org

Submitted by Robert M. Brown



My Sister's Pantry's greatest need right now is for those who are homeless and have no means of cooking food. They need small, light weight items that people can carry in a backpack.

They are in need of the following:

- portable meat products, like beef jerky sticks
- tuna fish in packets
- packets of cheese crackers or peanut butter crackers
- small bags of nuts
- energy bars
- individual plastic containers of fruit like mandarin oranges (NO applesauce)
- socks

She could also use clean plastic bags and large paper grocery sacks with flat bottoms.

Without the hot meals and the clothing closet, there is less need for volunteers. Several teenagers from the area have come to help so that older volunteers can stay at home.

They are keeping to their regular distribution schedule of first and third Mondays and fourth Saturday. The clients come to the back doors and are given two bags of food. No one is allowed inside the building.

There will be a bin just outside the UCUP church front door for you to drop off any items you have to donate. Someone will empty it each evening before dark. Do you live close to UCUP? Please call Kay Shaben at (253) 906-7696 if you can help. Thank you!

Martha also sends a BIG THANK YOU for the \$300 check from UCUP that she received last week!



Superhero L'Arch Auction

**Laura Giddings &
Chuck Schilling
with Pastor Cathy.**





Feeling helpless?

Could you give to someone in need?

You might be feeling a little helpless right now. When we have to stay home to stay well, how can we help when there continue to be so many needs out there in our community? The Emergency Food Network still needs to collect and distribute food to the hungry. The Rescue Mission has placed some of its most vulnerable in hotel rooms, which also frees up more space for physical distancing in their facility--this is expensive. The victims of abuse are spending even more time at home with their abusers, and some victims find the courage to call the YWCA for help. The detention center continues to release immigrants who need help from AIDNW to get to their families.

With limited personnel and reduced resources, these organizations carry on. A check to one of your favorite causes would be of great help right now.

Do you pay someone to cut your hair or clean your house? These people are usually self-employed and are not eligible for unemployment benefits. Consider paying them anyway.

We also have some congregation members who could use financial help now. A gift to the Minister's Discretionary Fund will allow Pastor Cathy to direct your donation anonymously where it is most needed.

Maybe you won't need that stimulus check when it comes in. Maybe you can afford to give all or part of it to someone who needs to pay the rent or put food on the table. Think about it and give what you can where you can!

Submitted by Dorothy McQuiston



At this time of the year, we typically 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. This year these funds are also being used to help with COVID 19 relief in the hardest hit areas around the globe.

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, because we are worshiping virtually, we were not able to

actually collect this offering on March 22nd as planned. We are hoping that you will all give as generously as you are able in order that the assistance needed can reach those who need it most. Thank you all.



Submitted by Cathi Cline

WE ARE AS STRONG AS OUR MOST VULNERABLE

ONLINE FUNDRAISER

APRIL 1ST - APRIL 3RD



TACOMA COMMUNITY HOUSE

IMMIGRATION • EDUCATION • EMPLOYMENT • ADVOCACY SINCE 1910

Due to COVID-19, Tacoma Community House canceled their 110th Annual Luncheon. Normally 700 people attend this luncheon and contribute about \$80,000. This allows them to serve 3,200 Immigrants, Refugees and US citizens through their four core programs of Immigration, Education, Employment and Advocacy for Victims of Crime.

During this 3-day virtual campaign you'll hear from our Executive Director, Lauren Walker Lee, Siemny Kim from Kiro 7 News, our guest speaker Rania Qawasma, and TCH Board Members on why it is essential to support TCH.

Continue to stand with immigrants and refugees by making a contribution and by sharing this campaign with your friends and family. Please consider donating at:

<https://www.tacomacommunityhouse.org/donate/>



April 4 Living Stone Prison Fellowship visit has been postponed.

We hope to re-schedule for late summer or early fall. Please continue to pray for this important ministry!

Dennis, Diane, and Ben Small

DO YOU NEED SOME GOOD NEWS?

This website, with its archive of 21,000 positive news stories from around the globe, confirms what people already know—that good news itself is not in short supply; the broadcasting of it is.



JOYS & CONCERNS

A big THANK YOU to Pastor Cathy for her leadership during these challenging days (weeks). We pray that you are well and staying connected to others from United Church – by email, phone or the old fashioned way - a handwritten note. We want to send out prayers for those that have the coronavirus, those that care for them, be it healthcare workers, first responders or family members. Our sympathy to those that have lost friends or loves ones. Your Care & Concern Committee look forward to the day when we'll gather again at the building we call United Church to worship – what a reunion that will be!!!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 12 DANIELLE DIMMERMAN
- 13 EMMA BERRY (7)
- 14 MOLLIE CHAFFEE
TERRY GIBSON
- 17 YVONNE BEGEMAN
DON THOMPSON
- 21 CHRISTINE CROSSLEY
- 23 ARDIE HERBEL
- 30 VICKI DIAMOND



JOIN US!
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM
FOR OUR LIVE STREAM
WORSHIP SERVICE!



Newsletter

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United Church In University Place

3912 Grandview Dr W
University Place, WA. 98466
253-564-2754



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